



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 128

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON PETROLEUM

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, announced today that the Premier of New South Wales, the Honourable Sir Robert Askin, K.C.M.G., had agreed to a request to make available Mr. Justice W. H. Collins, of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, as sole Royal Commissioner to conduct this inquiry. The Prime Minister expressed the Australian Government's appreciation for the co-operation and generosity of the Premier of New South Wales and the Chief Justice for agreeing to make available the services of a further judge to assist his Government in an important national task.

The Prime Minister and the Minister for Minerals and Energy, Mr. Rex Connor, announced on 20 July that Cabinet had agreed to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into all aspects of refining, marketing and pricing in Australia of all types of petroleum and petroleum products.

Mr. Whitlam said that the following Terms of Reference had been approved for the inquiry:

To make inquiry into, and report upon, the following matters, so far as they are relevant to laws that have been, or could be, made by the Parliament, namely -

All aspects of the production by refining, and the marketing and pricing, in Australia of all types of petroleum, diesel and other fuels for internal combustion and jet engines, derived from any form of liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons, whether such hydrocarbons are produced in Australia or elsewhere, and all types of residual furnace and heating fuels and other by-products likewise derived.