



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 140

17 October 1973

ALBURY-WODONGA AREA DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, announced today that he will be meeting the Premier of New South Wales, Sir Robert Askin, and the Premier of Victoria, Mr. Hamer, at the Wodonga Civic Centre on 23 October to sign the Albury-Wodonga Area Development Agreement.

Mr. Whitlam said that the signing of the Agreement would be an historic step, signifying the strong commitment of the three Governments to develop the new growth centre at Albury-Wodonga with a concern for the quality of environment having regard to human requirements and public involvement.

Mr. Whitlam said that a primary purpose of the Agreement was to establish a development organisation to undertake the planning and development and organisation of the growth complex.

Mr. Whitlam took the opportunity to record the satisfaction of the Australian Government, and his own personal satisfaction, at the successful completion of this first phase of an outstanding example of how the Australian Government and the States can work together in close co-operation.

Mr. Whitlam said that complementary legislation to be presented to the three Parliaments was currently being drafted, and that Australian Government legislation would be introduced as soon as possible after the signing of the Agreement.

Mr. Whitlam said that, in view of the significance of the occasion, he would be inviting, in addition to the two Premiers, members of the Ministerial Council, representatives of local government and members of the Interim Consultative Committee - which has been the vehicle for public participation in the development so far - to a luncheon to mark the occasion.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.