



## PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 205

18 March 1974

### COCKBURN SOUND SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES FOR STUDY

(Joint Statement by the Prime Minister, the Hon. E.G. Whitlam  
Q.C., M.P., and the Premier of Western Australia,  
the Hon. J.T. Tonkin, M.L.A.)

An independent study to examine ship repair requirements, both commercial and naval, on the West Australian coast, is to be commissioned early this year.

The Australian and West Australian Governments will commission a study of the possibilities of long term, staged development of future ship repair facilities in Western Australia.

The two Governments recognised that joint naval and commercial ship repair facilities could raise practical problems, but agreed also that separate facilities which ultimately could be developed to complement each other might be feasible.

Invitations to undertake the study will be issued to selected tenderers later this month.

Tenderers will be asked to examine the economic and engineering feasibility of establishing commercial ship repair facilities in Western Australia. They will also be called upon to examine the feasibility of joint planning for the development of commercial ship repair facilities along with the Royal Australian Navy's long term proposals for extending naval ship repair facilities at HMAS STIRLING, Garden Island, W.A.

Representatives of the two Governments, at a meeting in Canberra last week, agreed on details of the study, which was expected to be completed in about six months and cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. The cost would be shared equally between both Governments.

The study will be managed jointly by representatives of both Governments.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.