

267A

PRESS RELEASE

18 November 1974

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (REDS)

The Prime Minister today released a list of Gold Coast projects approved by the REDS Committee of ministers at their last meeting in Canberra on 13 November. Mr Whitlam was holding a press conference at Surfers Paradise.

The Regional Employment Development Scheme is designed to improve employment opportunities in areas of high unemployment by encouraging local initiative in these areas to develop suitable work programs.

Projects with a high proportion of funds allotted for wages are generally preferred. Recruitment of labour for projects under the Scheme will be administered by the local - in this case, Southport - office of the Commonwealth Employment Service.

Excluding supervisory and specialist personnel, all labour requirements will be drawn from persons eligible for unemployment benefits.

In selecting the labour required, preference will be given to persons with dependents who have been unemployed the longest. Married persons working part-time or on short time will not necessarily be disqualified from employment on projects.

All persons employed under the scheme will be "work-tested" for suitable employment at not less than monthly intervals and their continued employment on a project at Australian Government expense will be conditional on there being no such alternative employment.

This will ensure that projects do not compete for labour with regular employers.

Proposals for projects that may receive assistance may emanate from such bodies as local government authorities, community groups, special purpose groups, business enterprises, or State Departments. They should receive the endorsement of the appropriate local government authority.

The approved Gold Coast Projects, which will be administered through the Southport District Employment Office are :

.../2

<u>Project</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>REDS Grant</u>
Gold Coast City Council - Project 1 - Sea Wall Construction - Stone pitched Batters, Makina and Imperial Parade	\$ 5,240
Gold Coast City Council - Project 2 - Sea Wall Construction - Stone pitching, Salerno Street Bridge	\$ 5,240
Gold Coast City Council - Project 3 - Keebra Park - Tree Planting and Stone Steps	\$ 2,010
Gold Coast City Council - Project 4 - Croquet Lawn, Mallowa Drive, Soil Fill and Drainage - Grass Sprigging	\$ 1,625
Gold Coast City Council - Project 5 - MacIntosh Park - Stone Wall, Rock Wall around Lake	\$15,820
Gold Coast City Council - Project 6 - Evandale Site - Construction of Stone Wall around Site and drainage	\$ 6,215
Gold Coast City Council - Project 7 - Olympic Pool - Stone Pitch Wall	\$ 6,100
Gold Coast City Council - Project 8 - Lookout, Rock Wall - Burleigh Heads	\$ 1,550
Gold Coast City Council - Project 9 - Goodwin Park Pathway	\$ 1,975
	<hr/>
TOTAL	\$45,775
	<hr/> <hr/>