



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 418
17. December 1974

SYDNEY HARBOUR NATIONAL PARK

The Australian Government has agreed to release to the New South Wales Government on 1 January 1975 approximately 312 hectares of land including 250 hectares of Sydney Harbour foreshore holdings for the creation of a Sydney Harbour National Park and 60 hectares for other recreational purposes.

This was announced in a joint statement by the Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, and the New South Wales Premier, Sir Robert Askin, today.

The joint statement followed today's State Cabinet meeting.

The 312 hectares of land will be purchased by the New South Wales Government on the understanding that it will be dedicated permanently either for national park or for public recreation purposes.

The Australian Government has also agreed to vacate at a later date a further 126 hectares of foreshore land for use for similar purposes.

In discussion last week the New South Wales Government also agreed to sell to the Australian Government 13,600 hectares of land at Holsworthy, 2850 hectares of land at Beecroft Peninsula. Both of these areas are used by the Australian Government for defence purposes.

Formal transfer of the land will take place as soon as practicable. Vacant position will be given to most of the land on 1 January 1975.

Agreement of this and other points was reached at a meeting between the New South Wales Minister for Lands and Tourism, the Hon. T.L. Lewis, Minister for Services and Property, the Hon. F.M. Daly, and the Minister for Environment and Conservation, the Hon. Dr M. Cass.

The Initial 312 hectares includes holdings at Dobroyd Head, Middle Head, North Head, and South Head, as well as similar parcels at Steel Point, Clarke Reserve, Williams Park, Mqrks Park, Henry Head, Barrenjoey Head, and Georges Heights.

Canberra. ACT.