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SPEECH NOTES FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, MR E.G. WHITLAM, Q.C., M.P.,
FOR THE HOBART CIVIC RECEPTION, 15 FEBRUARY 1975

1. IN 1803 LIEUTENANT JOHN BOWEN MADE THE FIRST EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT IN TASMANIA AT RISDON ON THE EASTERN SHORE OF THE DERWENT. THE SETTLEMENT WAS NAMED HOBART AFTER LORD HOBART THEN BRITISH COLONIAL SECRETARY. THE SITE WAS LATER FOUND TO BE UNSUITABLE.

2. IN FEBRUARY 1804 - 19 FEBRUARY, 171 YEARS AGO - LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAVID COLLINS SELECTED A SPOT FIVE MILES FARTHER DOWNSTREAM AT SULLIVAN COVE AND TOOK POSSESSION FOR THE SETTLEMENT PROPER OF HOBART TOWN. THIS NAME REMAINED IN OFFICIAL USE UNTIL 1881.

3. GOVERNOR MACQUARIE VISITED HOBART TOWN IN 1811 AND FOUND BUILDINGS "ERECTED IN A VERY IRREGULAR MANNER AND WITHOUT ANY PLAN WHATEVER". HE HAD A PLAN DRAWN UP SHOWING A MAIN SQUARE AND SEVEN STREETS AND HE FORMULATED REGULATIONS FOR FUTURE BUILDING. ON HIS SECOND VISIT IN 1821, MACQUARIE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE IMPROVEMENT MADE.

4. IN 1838 A POLICE ACT WAS PASSED WHICH WAS THE GENESIS OF HOBART'S MUNICIPAL HISTORY. UNDER IT THE SURVEYOR GENERAL WAS AUTHORISED TO SET OUT THE LIMITS OF THE TOWN; OTHER SECTIONS RELATED TO SUCH MATTERS AS THE MARKING OUT OF FOOTPATHS AND THE BREADTH OF CARRIAGE-WAYS.

5. IN 1842, HOBART WAS CREATED A CITY. FROM 1846 IT WAS GOVERNED BY COMMISSIONERS (ELECTED BY THE RATEPAYERS) WHO PROVIDED FOR LIGHTING, CLEANING AND PAVING. THEIR POWERS WERE LIMITED, AND IN 1852 AN ACT WAS PASSED ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPALITY. IN 1857 HOBART WAS INCORPORATED AS A CITY, AND ITS MOTTO SIC FORTIS HOBARTIA CREVIT - THUS IN STRENGTH DOES HOBART GROW.

6. THE FIRST MAYOR OF HOBART WAS WILLIAM CARTER IN 1853. THE PRESENT LORD MAYOR, ALDERMAN SOUNDY, HAS HELD OFFICE SINCE 1970. HIS FATHER WAS, IN 1932, THE LAST PERSON TO BE CALLED MAYOR OF HOBART. BY 1938 AFTER A PERIOD OUTSIDE THE TOWN HALL, HE HAD BECOME THE SECOND LORD MAYOR OF HOBART. SIR JOHN SOUNDY SET A FINE CIVIC RECORD FOR HIS SON TO FOLLOW. THE SOUNDY FAMILY HAS MADE AN EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOOD GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF HOBART.

7. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. LAST YEAR WE MADE GRANTS OF \$56,345,000 TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA. OF THAT SUM, \$1,669,000 CAME TO TASMANIA. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY THAT AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD MADE DIRECT GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

8. MANY PEOPLE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY NO GRANT WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE HOBART CITY COUNCIL. THE GRANTS COMMISSION HAS GIVEN A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT TO THE STATUS OF CAPITAL CITY LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES, AND THE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT EACH OF THEM HAS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL ABOVE-STANDARD CAPACITY TO RAISE REVENUE. THE COMMISSION DECIDED TO RECOMMEND THAT NO GRANTS BE MADE TO THE CAPITAL CITY COUNCILS IN SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, PERTH AND HOBART.

9. YOU WILL ALL BE AWARE THAT A SPECIAL PREMIERS CONFERENCE WAS HELD YESTERDAY IN CANBERRA. WE RECOGNISE THE NEED FOR MORE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE STATES AND ONLY LAST WEEK I ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO BE CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONS WITH THE STATES.

THIS COMMITTEE WILL ALSO EXAMINE PROGRAMS OF DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO REGIONS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

10. YESTERDAY IN CANBERRA YOUR PREMIER, ERIC REECE, AND I SIGNED AGREEMENTS BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS RELATING TO THE NATIONAL ESTATE AND NATIONAL SEWERAGE PROGRAMS. THE TWO AGREEMENTS UNDER THE URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) ACT AMOUNT TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF MORE THAN \$3 MILLION. TASMANIA'S GRANT OF \$895,277 FOR NATIONAL ESTATE PURPOSES WILL GO TOWARDS THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONSERVATION STUDIES AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

11. I AM DELIGHTED THAT \$15,000 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR ASSISTANCE WITH MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION WORK ON THE THEATRE ROYAL - THE OLDEST AND SURELY THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THEATRE IN AUSTRALIA. I AM LOOKING FORWARD VERY MUCH TO THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY'S PERFORMANCE THERE TONIGHT.

12. THE HOBART CITY COUNCIL IS TO RECEIVE \$6,000 FOR A STUDY OF THE FUTURE USES OF SALAMANCA PLACE AND ITS REMARKABLY PRESERVED HISTORIC STONE WAREHOUSES. THE FACT THAT THE AREA NOW PULSES WITH LIFE THROUGH ITS SATURDAY OPEN-AIR MARKET AND ITS RESTAURANTS, THAT THE ARTS ARE ENCOURAGED AND THAT TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TURN 63 SALAMANCA PLACE INTO A FAVOURITE COMMUNAL RESOURCE CENTRE IS A TRIBUTE TO THE IMAGINATION OF BOTH THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE PEOPLE OF HOBART.

13. THE HOBART CITY COUNCIL HAS ALSO RECEIVED A GRANT OF \$175,000 THROUGH TOURISM AND RECREATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SYNTHETIC ATHLETICS TRACK. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO LAST YEAR'S GRANT OF \$60,000 FOR THE TRACK AND FIELD CENTRE. IN VIEW OF MAX WALKER'S GREAT PERFORMANCE ON THE MAINLAND IN THIS LAST TEST SERIES, MAYBE SOME MORE INVESTMENT IN CRICKET PROMOTION HERE WOULD BE MORE THAN JUSTIFIED.

14. LAST YEAR \$300,000 WAS APPROVED UNDER THE CHILD CARE ACT, BUT I UNDERSTAND THE COUNCIL HAS HAD SOME DIFFICULTY IN FINDING A SUITABLE SITE FOR BUILDING. I HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THAT GRANT AT WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF HOBART'S YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

15. I HAVE DELIBERATELY LEFT UNTIL LAST ANY MENTION OF THE TASMAN BRIDGE ACCIDENT AND ITS AFTERMATH. YOU WILL BE AWARE OF MY OWN DEEP CONCERN AT THE EXTRAORDINARY MISHAP, AND THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PLEDGED FULL AND READY CO-OPERATION IN RESTORING THE TASMAN BRIDGE ITSELF AND MAKING GOOD THE LOSS AND DISRUPTION SUFFERED BY PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DERWENT.

LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED SHORTLY - PROBABLY NEXT WEEK - TO HONOUR FULLY AND PROMPTLY THE UNDERTAKINGS WE HAVE GIVEN. UP TO \$13 MILLION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR WORKS NECESSARY TO RESTORE THE BRIDGE ITSELF, AND TENDERS WILL SHORTLY BE CALLED TO PROVIDE FOR THE CLEARING OF THE WRECKAGE FROM THE VICINITY OF THE BRIDGE THUS ALLOWING FURTHER EXAMINATION AND PLANNING FOR RECONSTRUCTION TO BE CARRIED OUT. MR BARNARD HAS APPROVED THE PROVISION, THROUGH THE ARMY, OF SUFFICIENT BAILEY BRIDGE MATERIAL TO ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF A TEMPORARY BRIDGE UPSTREAM TO CARRY ESSENTIAL COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, AND CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE PROVISION OF A PERMANENT SECOND BRIDGE.