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PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 463
10 March 1975

Appointments to Special Joint Commission on Tasman Bridge

In the joint statement issued by the Australian Prime Minister, the Hon. E.G. Whitlam, Q.C., M.P., and the Premier of Tasmania, the Hon. E.E. Reece, M.H.A. regarding their Agreement to set up a Special Joint Commission to superintend and direct the salvage and re-building operations following on the collapse of portion of the Tasman Bridge over the Derwent River, it was stated that the names of the two Associate Commissioners to act with Sir Allan Knight would shortly be announced.

The Prime Minister and the Premier said today that they were happy to be able to announce the acceptance by Mr Eric George Warrell, M.C.E., F.I.E., of the Prime Minister's invitation to act as Australian Government representative, and by Mr Bernard J. Donnelly, B. Eng., M.I.E., to act as the Tasmanian Government representative, on the Joint Commission. They will take up their duties immediately as members of the Interim Commission pending completion of the final arrangements.

Mr Warrell, who is Chairman of the Cities Commission under the Minister for Urban and Regional Development, commenced his engineering career as Assistant Engineer with the State Rivers and Waters Supply Commission of Victoria, where he served from 1947 to 1951. For the next 18 years he was associated with the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority, where he rose to the position of Associate Commissioner in 1965. In 1969 he became Vice-President of the Sydney Water Sewerage and Drainage Board. In June 1973 he moved to the Chairmanship of the Cities Commission.

Mr Donnelly retired last year from the position of Director of Public Works in Tasmania after a distinguished 41 year career in the Department, in which he served as Deputy Director for 13 years. Previously, he had been the Bridge Engineer before occupying the post of Deputy Chief Engineer for 8 years. He served for 5 years in the Army.

The Prime Minister and the Premier expressed their great appreciation to the Chief Commissioner, Sir Allan Knight and to the two Associate Commissioners, Mr Warrell and Mr Donnelly, for having agreed to make their services available at such short notice.