



## PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 469  
12 March 1975

### APPOINTMENT OF MR A.J.W. POWELL TO POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF DARWIN RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION

The Prime Minister announced today that Mr A.J.W. Powell, aged 41, the Commissioner of the National Capital Development Commission, has also been chosen by the Government as Chairman of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission following the resignation of Sir Leslie Thiess.

In announcing the appointment, which will take effect as from 13 March 1975, the Prime Minister said he would like to express his own and the Government's appreciation of Sir Leslie Thiess' public spirit in launching and leading the Darwin Interim Reconstruction Commission.

The Prime Minister said that Mr Powell has been Commissioner of the NCDC since February 1974 and brings to this task a wide professional background in a private enterprise field and in both State and Federal authorities.

The Prime Minister added that Mr Powell had not only expressed, but through his actions as Commissioner of the NCDC, had demonstrated his concern for the need for meaningful communication with the community and associated government departments and authorities.

The Australian Government believed that his forceful attitude coupled with his professional expertise would ensure that the massive job waiting to be done in Darwin would proceed without undue delay.

The Prime Minister outlined the following details of Mr Powell's qualifications and experience:

His professional qualifications are: BE; DipTCP (Syd); MRAPI. His professional experience comprises five years between 1958-1963 as an investigation and research engineer, first with the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority in Australia and later with a private enterprise firm in Britain. This was followed by a year with the Cumberland County Council and then between 1964-1970 with the N.S.W. State Planning Authority. From 1970-1973 Mr Powell was in private practice as a consultant town planner and principal in his own firm. Before his appointment

as Commissioner of the NCDC, he spent a year on contract with the Department of Urban and Regional Development assisting in the initial setting up of the Department. Mr Powell has been an external lecturer in town planning at the University of Sydney as well as occupying posts on various government committees concerned with planning and transportation. He was Vice-President (1972) of the NSW Division, Royal Australian Planning Institute and in the period 1970-1974, he was a member of the Council of the N.R.M.A.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.