



PRIME MINISTER

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LOCATION OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

The Government has endorsed new criteria for the location of Australian Government employment in Canberra and other growth centres.

Most proposals for establishing new units of Government administration, or relocating existing units, have tended to assume they would be in Canberra. However acceptance of all such proposals would place intolerable strains on Canberra's growth resources in the short term.

The Government has decided that a new government unit should be located in Canberra when it needs to be in Canberra for the efficient despatch of its responsibilities and where its presence contributes to Canberra's role as the national capital.

The Government will be transferring other new and existing employment units to new growth centres in order to ensure that progress in these centres is as rapid and efficient as possible.

Among the criteria which will be considered are:

- . Relocation will be directed towards relieving pressure on major cities and at the same time promoting the growth of regional centres.
- . Decisions will be consistent with Australian Government priorities for the development of particular regions and growth centres.
- . Growth centres will have priority, to the extent of their capacity, in the location of units of Government administration. New units, will as far as possible, be located in growth centres, consistent with the efficient execution of their functions.
- . Although Canberra is a growth centre, it is less in need of growth stimulus than newer centres.
- . New growth centres provide a viable alternative to Canberra for the location of units of 'national' or 'central office' character.

Each growth centre will tend to specialise in certain functional areas. This specialisation would be balanced by appropriate growth in the private sector and could be supported by the development of related academic disciplines in educational institutions in the growth centres. Functional groupings in growth centres which are expected to emerge are:

Albury-Wodonga: National education, environmental studies, transport, agencies with a national 'market serving' role (e.g. Health Insurance Commission).

Bathurst-Orange: Earth resources study and development, cartography.

Geelong: Biological sciences.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.