



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No.523
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AUSTRALIAN MARITIME COLLEGE

The Prime Minister, the Hon. E. G. Whitlam, has confirmed the Government's decision, announced on 10 June 1975, to establish an Australian Maritime College to provide education and training for officers in the Australian maritime industry and to site it at Launceston.

The decision results from a report on "Training Requirements for Sea-going Personnel" from Mr Malcolm Summers, who is the Royal Commissioner inquiring into various aspects of the maritime industry. The report was tabled on 11 July 1974.

Launceston was chosen because the College needs to have practical training facilities at a seamanship centre including a jetty, boat repair sheds, boats, liferafts and periodic access to a small training ship. It needs to be situated close to sheltered water with good access to the sea.

Launceston has these requirements and its proximity to Bass Strait is a decisive consideration.

The Government accepts the recommendation of Mr Summers that the College should be based on a requirement of 300 student places, with provision for future growth. The Government accepts the recommendations that the College should be situated close to a tertiary institution, which may need to be developed further than the existing advanced education facilities in Launceston. Library, hall of residence and some other facilities could, by arrangement with the Tasmanian Government, be available for joint use with Tasmanian tertiary students. The Committee investigating post secondary education in Tasmania will be asked to recommend the manner of this association.

The College will educate deck officers, engineer officers, radio officers, and provide for higher studies including nautical science degree qualifications, for which at present Australian seafarers are forced to go overseas.

The College will be comprehensive. It will be a college with predominantly tertiary level studies with associated courses at a level appropriate for seamen and fishermen and including practical training in safety, fire fighting, and life saving.