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## PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No.527

1 July 1975

### ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Prime Minister today announced that a revised Administrative Arrangements Order had been approved by the Executive Council this morning.

The Order incorporates new legislation passed during the recent sittings of Parliament and brings up to date the citations of Acts which were amended during those sittings.

The Order also consolidates the various amendments which have been approved and gazetted since the last consolidated Order was issued on 10 February 1975.

These amendments include those made on 6 June last concerning the minerals and solar energy research activities of the C.S.I.R.O. The Prime Minister said that he wished to make it clear that the fact that the Minister for Minerals and Energy was responsible for those aspects of the C.S.I.R.O.'s research work did not entail the transfer of the C.S.I.R.O. staff concerned to the Public Service. These staff would remain employed under the Science and Industry Research Act, and it is not proposed that they should be transferred.

Both the Postal Commission and the Telecommunications Commission commence full-scale operations today. These two separate statutory commissions are responsible to the Postmaster-General, Senator R. Bishop, and have taken over almost all of the functions previously exercised by the Postmaster-General's Department, which will be responsible to the Postmaster-General.

The consolidated Order also includes some other changes which have been in the course of preparation for some time as a result of decisions and actions previously taken, particularly as a result of the abolition in 1974 of the Department of Supply.

A number of functions of the Department of Manufacturing Industry (which absorbed many of the functions of the former Department of Supply) have been reallocated.

As previously announced on 1 July 1974 administrative control of the Research and Development Division of that Department, and the associated Government establishments concerned with defence science, were transferred to the Minister and Department of Defence. The transfer of control was formally effected under the Order approved today.

The Government has also previously announced the transfer of the purchasing and disposals function from the Department of Manufacturing Industry. The purchasing and disposals function has today been transferred to the Department of Services and Property, which already has responsibility for Australian Government purchasing policy. The Stores and Transport function has also been transferred to the Department of Services and Property.

The other functions of the Department of Manufacturing Industry which the Government has decided are more appropriately located within other departments are Defence Aid, Defence Standardisation, the Defence Printing Establishment and the Guided Weapons and Electronics Support Facility all of which have been transferred to the Department of Defence.

The Prime Minister also said that the Patent, Trade Marks and Designs Offices had been transferred from the administration of the Minister for Science and Consumer Affairs to the Attorney-General.

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