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Please don't
SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER,

THE HON. E.G. WHITLAM, Q.C., M.P., *remember*

AT MORNINGTON PENINSULA MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION,
MORNINGTON, VIC. 12 AUGUST 1975

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU TONIGHT AS A GUEST OF THE QUARTERLY SOCIAL EVENING ASSEMBLY OF THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION. I PAY TRIBUTE TO YOUR VISION IN CHOOSING TO MEET TOGETHER, IN ASSOCIATION, WITH THE BEST INTERESTS OF YOUR PENINSULA AT HEART. WITHOUT SACRIFICING YOUR DISINCTIVE INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS, YOU WERE FARSIGHTED ENOUGH TO REALISE THAT ON SOME MATTERS IT WOULD MAKE MUCH MORE SENSE TO GO IT TOGETHER, RATHER THAN ALONE. I CAN UNDERSTAND THE INITIAL DIFFICULTIES YOU MIGHT HAVE FACED IN PERSUADING PEOPLE THAT A QUARTERLY MEETING TOGETHER WAS NOT TANTAMOUNT TO SELLING OUT YOUR BIRTHRIGHT, BUT POSSIBLY A STEP TOWARDS RECOVERING THAT BIRTHRIGHT, PARTICULARLY IN AN AREA SO ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AS THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA.

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I AM QUITE SURE THAT EACH MEMBER ORGANISATION - THE CITY OF FRANKSTON AND THE SHIRES OF FLINDERS, HASTINGS AND MORNINGTON ITSELF - VALUES THE OPPORTUNITY OF SHARING PROBLEMS AND WORKING TOGETHER ON SOLUTIONS WHICH WILL BENEFIT THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE WHOLE OF THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA) AND NOT JUST ONE PART OF IT. YOU HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO TEACH MANY OTHER DISTRICTS, MANY OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES WHO MAY BE STILL INCLINED TO SHY OFF THE IDEA OF ANY KIND OF REGIONALISM FOR FEAR OF LOSING THEIR INDIVIDUAL IDENTITIES. YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED, WITH YOUR ASSOCIATION, THAT THIS IS AN UNFOUNDED FEAR. INDEED YOU ALL BELONG, AS WELL, TO THE WESTERNPORT REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS WHICH HAS DRAWN SUPPORT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S REGIONAL ORGANISATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

IT IS GRATIFYING TO ATTEND GATHERINGS LIKE THIS, BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO HEAR AT FIRST HAND HOW THINGS ARE GOING AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT, THE ONE CLOSEST TO THE PEOPLE. IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS I HAVE ATTENDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS FROM TUMUT TO LAUNCESTON, FROM IPSWICH TO FORBES AND IN THE SPRAWLING SUBURBS OF SYDNEY WHICH FORM MY OWN ELECTORATE. THE ACTUAL PROBLEMS DIFFER FROM PLACE TO PLACE, ACCORDING TO DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS, BUT ESSENTIALLY THE CONSTANT ISSUE IS HOW BEST TO FACILITATE THE DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO PEOPLE WHERE THEY LIVE, BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT AFFECTS THE QUALITY OF THEIR LIVES.

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THERE WAS A TIME, OF COURSE, WHEN PRIME MINISTERS TENDED NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN ANYTHING AS ORDINARY AND BASIC AND RELEVANT AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT. IT WAS BENEATH THEIR DIGNITY TO BOTHER THEMSELVES WITH HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT COULD POSSIBLY MAKE ENDS MEET, WITH HOW ESSENTIAL SERVICES COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN OUTER SUBURBAN AREAS, WITH WHAT THE QUALITY OF LIFE WAS GOING TO BE LIKE FOR ANY BUT THE COMFORTABLY OFF. THAT WAS THE TIME WHEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAS RATHER LESS THAN A POOR RELATION, MORE LIKE A FOUNDLING THAT NEITHER PREMIERS NOR PRIME MINISTERS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT. BUT THINGS HAVE CHANGED, CHANGED UTTERLY, AND IN A REMARKABLY SHORT TIME.

JUST TWO WEEKS AGO, WE ANNOUNCED THIS YEAR'S GRANTS COMMISSION ALLOCATIONS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES, \$79,908,000 THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA, WITH \$20,242,000 COMING TO VICTORIA. IT MAY NOT BE TOO OBVIOUS IF I MENTION THAT \$410,000 CAME TO THE INDIVIDUAL SHIRE AND CITY COUNCILS MAKING UP THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION. THIS YEAR, GRANTS REPRESENT AN INCREASE OF 38% FOR VICTORIA ON LAST YEAR'S GRANTS, AND THE LEVEL OF PER CAPITA ASSISTANCE HAS RISEN FROM \$4.07 IN 1974/75 TO \$5.58 IN 1975/76.

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IT'S SO EASY NOW TO TALK ABOUT THIS YEAR'S AND LAST YEAR'S ALLOCATIONS AS THOUGH THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AROUND. BUT, OF COURSE, THEY HAVEN'T. REMEMBER WHAT A STRUGGLE WE HAD TO GET THE PRINCIPLE OF FUNDING ACCEPTED? SOME OF YOU MIGHT RECALL A CERTAIN SECTION OF MY POLICY SPEECH IN 1972:

"WE WILL GIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FULL ACCESS TO THE LOAN COUNCIL AND GRANTS COMMISSION - NOT ONLY BECAUSE THE BURDENS BORNE BY TAXPAYERS AS RATEPAYERS MUST BE REDUCED, BUT BECAUSE THE INEQUALITIES MUST BE ATTACKED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ACTING WITH AND THROUGH LOCAL GOVERNMENT."

IT WASN'T A VERY GLAMOROUS PROMISE BUT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT ONE, AND IT WAS ATTACKED BY OUR OPPONENTS AT STATE AND FEDERAL LEVELS. BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT INTERESTED IN THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND BURDENS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THEY WERE UNABLE TO RESPOND TO OUR PLEDGE TO HELP LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ANY WAY OTHER THAN TO KICK THE CENTRALIST CAN. BUT AS I POINTED OUT IN ANOTHER POLICY SPEECH, IN MAY LAST YEAR, "THE ROLE WE ASSIGN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS THE REAL ANSWER TO CHARGES OF CENTRALISM. UNDER A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS WE HAVE PROVIDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH THE FUNDS TO UNDERTAKE THE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES PREVIOUSLY INADEQUATELY CARRIED OUT OR TOTALLY NEGLECTED."

I THEN MENTIONED THE AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE PLAN WHICH IS NOW UNDER CHALLENGE BY YOUR STATE GOVERNMENT, ALONG WITH SUCH SUBVERSIVE PROGRAMS AS MEALS ON WHEELS, HANDICAPPED PERSONS' WELFARE, HOME NURSING SUBSIDIES AND BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICES.

THE HIGH COURT CHALLENGE WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CAN GIVE DIRECT HELP TO THESE WELFARE SERVICES - MANY OF THEM BEGUN UNDER PREVIOUS PRIME MINISTERS, VICTORIAN PRIME MINISTERS LIKE MENZIES, AND GORTON - AND WHETHER SUCH AID MUST PASS THROUGH THE DELAYING HANDS OF STATE GOVERNMENTS OF WHATEVER HUE. BUT ALL THE PEOPLE IN RECEIPT OF THESE SERVICES CARE ABOUT IS THAT THEY SHOULD BE PROVIDED WHEN THEY ARE NEEDED. THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE SPEEDED UP BY PASSING THROUGH ANOTHER BUREAUCRACY. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES COULD TESTIFY TO THIS, PARTICULARLY HERE IN THE MORNINGTON PENINSULAR WHERE YOU HAVE NOT ONLY 42% OF YOUR POPULATION UNDER 21, BUT ALSO A VERY HIGH PROPORTION OF ELDERLY AND RETIRED PEOPLE WHO WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY DEPENDENT ON THE SERVICES UNDER CHALLENGE IN THE HIGH COURT. ALREADY A REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE PLAN IN THE WESTERNPORT REGION, AND IT HAS RECEIVED \$57,468 IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

IN 1975/76, DEPENDING ON THE SUCCESS OF THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT'S CHALLENGE, THIS REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL HAVE ACCESS TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT OF \$40,000 AS WELL AS GRANTS OF \$12,000 EACH FOR FOUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS. I LEAVE YOU TO DECIDE WHETHER SUCH ASSISTANCE COULD BE PROVIDED MORE EFFECTIVELY IF IT HAD TO BE CHANNELLED THROUGH STATE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, HAVING ORIGINATED WITH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.

IT'S DISTRESSING TO SEE HOW OTHER EFFORTS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE ON BEHALF OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN THWARTED BY STATE GOVERNMENT, BY STATE PREMIERS. YOU WILL RECALL OUR INSISTENCE THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT BE REPRESENTED AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. BUT WE PROMISED ALSO TO GIVE YOU ACCESS TO THE LOAN COUNCIL, AND I THOUGHT THAT I HAD SECURED SOME SORT OF AGREEMENT FROM THE PREMIERS AT THAT CONVENTION IN SEPTEMBER 1973. WHEN THEY CAME TO CANBERRA THE NEXT MONTH, OCTOBER 1973, TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL, ALL THE OLD PREJUDICES WERE ON SHOW AGAIN, ALL THE OLD JEALOUSIES WERE PARADED, AND THE VOTES OF STATE PREMIERS EXCLUDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM THE LOAN COUNCIL. SO THEN WE TOOK IT TO A REFERENDUM. THE OFFICIAL CASE FOR NO WAS A MARVEL OF MISREPRESENTATION, DELIBERATELY CREATING CONFUSION IN PEOPLE'S MINDS ABOUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE LOANS COUNCIL AND THE GRANTS COMMISSION. NEVERTHELESS, IN VICTORIA 47.38% VOTED YES, BECAUSE ENOUGH PEOPLE IN VICTORIA REALISED HOW VITALLY THE PROPOSAL COULD AFFECT THEM AS TAXPAYING, RATEPAYING CITIZENS.

NOR WERE VICTORIANS IMPRESSED BY THE VIGOUR WITH WHICH OUR OPPONENTS KICKED THE CENTRALIST CAN IN THAT WHOLE CAMPAIGN. AS I SAID IN MAY LAST YEAR, THE AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE PLAN AND SIMILAR PROGRAMS "ARE ALL ACTIVITIES WHICH CANNOT BE CLOSELY REGULATED FROM THE CENTRE AND ARE BEST PLANNED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES." SO MUCH FOR OUR CENTRALIST POLICIES. I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR UP THAT PARTICULAR MISCONCEPTION. AND I AM GLAD THAT OUR SECOND ANNUAL GRANTS COMMISSION ALLOCATIONS, LIKE LAST YEAR'S, HAVE NO STRINGS ATTACHED. THAT IS IN LINE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S FAITH IN THE FUNDAMENTAL GOOD SENSE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ITS ABILITY TO ORDER ITS OWN AFFAIRS AND SET ITS OWN PRIORITIES.

FOR MY PART, I WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN A SPECIAL MEETING IN CANBERRA TOMORROW OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ^{STANDING} ~~STANDING~~ COMMITTEE DEALING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT. FRESH FROM THIS GATHERING TONIGHT, I WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE WORKING PARTY REPORTS ON THE SUBMISSION MADE TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BY THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT. WE SHALL ALSO BE CONSIDERING THE GENERAL QUESTION OF GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN BORROWING BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT. SO YOU CAN SEE THAT OUR CONCERN FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT STOP WITH THOSE STRAIGHT OUT, NO-STRINGS ATTACHED GRANTS COMMISSION ALLOCATIONS.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO MOVED IN OTHER AREAS TO HELP LIFT THE FINANCIAL BURDENS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND TO ENSURE AS MUCH EQUALITY AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN REGIONS, ATTEMPTING TO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT DISADVANTAGED BECAUSE THEY LIVE IN ONE REGION RATHER THAN ANOTHER. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO REDUCE THE GAPS APPARENT IN THE PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES LIKE SEWERAGE PROGRAMS, URBAN LOCAL ROADS AND TRANSPORT, CHILD CARE PROGRAMS, ATTEMPTING TO REDUCE THE INEQUALITIES BETWEEN REGIONS WHICH HAVE BEGGARED THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY.

TAKE SEWERAGE, FOR EXAMPLE. IT WASN'T A VERY NICE WORD TO INTRODUCE INTO MY POLICY SPEECH IN 1972, BUT I DEFIED THE NICETIES AND MENTIONED IT, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE DONE SOMETHING ABOUT IT IN THIS AREA. IN CONSULTATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES WE HAVE EMBARKED ON A NATIONAL TEN YEAR PROGRAM TO CLEAR THE BACKLOG IN SEWERAGE SERVICES, AND IN 1974/75, \$2 MILLION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO AUTHORITIES IN THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA AREA FOR RETICULATION AND TREATMENT WORKS. IT IS HARD TO REALISE THAT THIS KIND OF EXPENDITURE ONLY CAME IN WITH A FEDERAL LABOR GOVERNMENT, BUT WE ARE PROPERLY PROUD OF IT. AND TO THINK THAT JOHN GORTON ONCE DEROGATIVELY DESCRIBED ME AS TALKING LIKE A SHIRE PRESIDENT.

IT IS INTERESTING TO COMPARE THE CENSUS FIGURES OF 1947, JUST AFTER THE WAR, WITH THOSE OF OUR LAST CENSUS IN 1971; IN 1947, MORNINGTON HAD 4004 PEOPLE; IN 1971, 14,289. IN 1947 FLINDERS HAD 7,561 PEOPLE; IN 1971, 15,481. AND IN 1947 THEY COUNTED FRANKSTON AND HASTINGS TOGETHER WITH 11,672 PEOPLE. IN 1971, HASTINGS HAD GROWN TO 8,927. FRANKSTON WAS UP TO 59,410.

WHILE THE AVERAGE AGE WAS 32.4 AT 1947 CENSUS TIME IN FRANKSTON/HASTINGS IT HAD COME DOWN TO 28.7 BY 1971. THIS HELPS EXPLAIN WHY TODAY, 42 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION IS UNDER 21, AND WHY THE CITY OF FRANKSTON ALONE HAS 18 STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, 4 HIGH SCHOOLS, 3 TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, 7 PRIVATE SCHOOLS, 16 PRESCHOOLS AND 10 INFANT WELFARE CENTRES FOR ITS PRESENT POPULATION OF 74,000.

YET AT THE SAME TIME, A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION ARE ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE OUT THEIR RETIREMENT YEARS - NOT JUST THEIR SUMMERS - IN THE PENINSULA SUNSHINE. THESE OLDER RESIDENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO SEEK SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ASSISTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. I KNOW THE FLINDERS SHIRE HAS BUILT TWO ELDERLY CITIZENS CLUBS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, WITH \$41,000 FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: \$8,000 TO ROSEBUD AND \$33,050 TO DROMANA. IN THE WHOLE PENINSULA AREA WE HAVE PROVIDED OVER \$14,000 IN DELIVERED MEALS SUBSIDY SINCE 1972, AND \$230,648 FOR PERSONAL CARE SUBSIDIES. IN 1974 WE GAVE \$37,000 TO THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, MORNINGTON, FOR FOUR HOSTEL BEDS AND IN MAY LAST YEAR A COMBINED CHURCH OF ENGLAND PROJECT FOR ST PAUL'S FRANKSTON RECEIVED A GRANT OF \$555,720 FOR 48 HOSTEL BEDS UNDER BOTH THE AGED PERSONS HOMES AND HOSTELS ACTS.

IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE FRANKSTON COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE UNDERTAKING OF A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY PLAN FOR ALL ASPECTS OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY. I BELIEVE A STRONG WORKING RELATIONSHIP EXISTS BETWEEN THE TOWN PLANNING AND SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENTS SO THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PLANNING OF FACILITIES AND AMENITIES CAN BE PRE-DETERMINED.

REALISING THE EFFECT ON QUALITY OF LIFE OF INADEQUATE PUBLIC TRANSPORT GENERALLY, AND PARTICULARLY IN AREAS SUDDENLY SUBJECT TO COMMUTER PRESSURES, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IN 1973/74 APPROVED CONSTRUCTION OF A THIRD TRACK BETWEEN CAULFIELD AND MORDIALLOC, AND AN ADDITIONAL PLATFORM AT INTERMEDIATE STATIONS UNDER THE URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROGRAM. AT JUNE 30 THIS YEAR, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD SPENT \$1.9 MILLION ON THE PROJECT, WHOSE FIRST STAGE, ALREADY APPROVED, BETWEEN CAULFIELD AND CHELTENHAM IS ESTIMATED TO COST \$6 MILLION. IN ADDITION TO THIS, \$424,000 HAS BEEN SPENT ON URBAN LOCAL ROADS IN THE PENINSULA AREA IN 1974/75 AND \$5,663,500 ON LAND ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF URBAN ARTERIAL ROADS, INCLUDING THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA FREEWAY AND THE FRANKSTON FREEWAY.

BUT COMMUNICATIONS DON'T STOP WITH ROADS AND RAILWAY LINES. LAST MONTH A NEW TELEPHONE EXCHANGE WAS OPENED AT MORNINGTON, ADDING TO THE 13 SMALL EXCHANGES OPENED SINCE 1972, AND NEW ONES ARE PLANNED FOR BAXTER, HASTINGS, LANGWARRIN, SOMERVILLE AND TYABB AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$5 MILLION.

THIS GIVES SOME IDEA OF THE AMOUNT OF WORK WHICH MUST BE DONE TO COPE WITH ALL THESE NEW DEMOGRAPHIC PRESSURES, AND TO ENSURE ^{THAT} LIVING STANDARDS ARE MAINTAINED WHEN PEOPLE, FOR WHATEVER REASON, FIND THEMSELVES LIVING AND WORKING IN PLACES WHICH NOT SO LONG AGO, USED TO BE A LONG WAY AWAY.

LIKE FRANKSTON CITY COUNCIL, ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA MUNICIPALITIES ASSOCIATION HAVE REALISED THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE. THE MORNINGTON SHIRE ITSELF, TAKING IN MOUNT ELIZA, MORNINGTON AND MOUNT MARTHA, HAS HAD A 40% INCREASE IN POPULATION IN 10 YEARS. ITS NEWEST TOWN PLANNING SCHEME HAS BEEN PREPARED BY COUNCIL IN ASSOCIATION WITH TOWN PLANNING CONSULTANTS AND THE WESTERNPORT REGIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY, TO WHICH FLINDERS SHIRE ALSO BELONGS. A MOUNT ELIZA STUDY HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED JOINTLY WITH THE CITY OF FRANKSTON AND IS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY BOTH COUNCILS.

I EXPECT THAT BOTH THESE SCHEMES HAVE THEIR SHARE OF KNOCKERS; INEVITABLY THERE WILL BE SOME PEOPLE UNHAPPY AT THE PROSPECT OF ANY ENCROACHMENT ON THEIR PROSPECTS AS PROPERTY OWNERS. BUT THE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE MORNINGTON STUDY IS THAT IT PLACES PROPER EMPHASIS ON LANDSCAPE AND CONSERVATION FEATURES, AND IS LOOKING TO PRESERVE LAND NOW FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF GENERATIONS TO COME. THOSE WHO CAME EARLY IN SEARCH OF THE DISTRICT'S BEAUTY WOULD SURELY APPROVE.

AND IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE URBAN LAND COUNCIL'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PURCHASE OF 654 HECTARES OF LAND ON THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA AND 6 ON PHILLIP ISLAND MUST BE SEEN. THE URBAN LAND COUNCIL CONTRIBUTED \$1.4 MILLION TOWARDS THE TOTAL COST OF \$2.1 MILLION IN 1974/75. THE PENINSULA LAND WILL BE BROUGHT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS ACT 1975 AND THE PHILLIP ISLAND HOLDING WILL BE ADDED TO EXISTING RESERVES.

UNDER THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL ESTATE PROGRAM, THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA WILL BE INCLUDED IN A \$21,000 COASTLINE STUDY WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE MINISTRY FOR CONSERVATION AND THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING BOARD OF VICTORIA. ANOTHER GRANT OF \$119,350 HAS ASSISTED WITH THE ACQUISITION OF "THE BRIARS" AS AGREED BETWEEN THE AUSTRALIAN AND VICTORIAN GOVERNMENTS AND THE MORNINGTON SHIRE. TOURISM AND RECREATION GRANTS OF \$80,000 HAVE GONE TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF SCENIC WALKWAYS AND AN INFORMATION BUREAU ON PHILLIP ISLAND.

CLEARLY A GREAT DEAL HAS BEEN DONE ALREADY, BUT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE BEST FEATURES OF THE PENINSULA. AND THIS IS A CHALLENGE TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, NO LESS TO INDIVIDUALS THAN TO SHIRES AND COUNCILS. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO INVOLVE PEOPLE IN CARING ABOUT THE FUTURE BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TODAY.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GROUPS ANXIOUS TO PREPARE PROPERLY DOCUMENTED SUBMISSIONS ON CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS. BOTH THE MOUNT ELIZA ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CARE AND THE WESTERNPORT AND PENINSULA PROTECTION COUNCIL HAVE RECEIVED GRANTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

FINALLY I COME TO THE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS OF THE SHIRE OF HASTINGS, THE SITE OF A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTAL BATTLES OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS. IT IS MORE INSTRUCTIVE TO LOOK AT ITS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FIGURES THAN ITS CENSUS FIGURES. IN 1961/62 THE INCOME OF THE HASTINGS SHIRE WAS \$180,580 AND ITS EXPENDITURE \$217,960. IN 1974/75 ITS INCOME HAD RISEN SOMEWHAT: TO \$2,125,008, TO BE PRECISE. AND EXPENDITURE WAS A MERE \$2,114,141. THE REASON OF COURSE IS THE PHENOMENAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA. IT MAY BE A CASE OF THE CHICKEN BEFORE THE EGG, BECAUSE IT ALL SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED AFTER THEY LAID THE GOLDEN EGG IN SOMERVILLE. THEN CAME B.P.'S OIL REFINERY AND LIQUID FUELS PIER AT CRIB POINT, THE ESSO/B.H.P. GAS FRACTIONALISATION PLANT AT LONG ISLAND, THE CRESCO FERTILIZER PLANT, WHICH WAS THEN REDEVELOPED BY ESSO/B.H.P., AND FINALLY JOHN LYSAGHT'S INTEGRATED STEEL WORKS AT WESTERNPORT BAY. SO FAR \$92 MILLION HAS BEEN SPENT ON DEVELOPMENT. EVENTUALLY IT WILL COST IN EXCESS OF \$1 BILLION AND PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR 2,500 PEOPLE, 850 OF WHOM ARE ALREADY ON THE JOB.

THE FIGURES ARE REALLY QUITE STAGGERING. SO TOO ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES IMPOSED ON HASTINGS SHIRE COUNCIL IN ENSURING THAT ALL THIS DEVELOPMENT, WITH ALL ITS ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL BENEFITS, SHOULD NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE WHOLE MORNINGTON PENINSULA AREA. I AM CONFIDENT THAT, ACTING IN CONCERT WITH THE OTHER MORNINGTON PENINSULA MUNICIPALITIES, AND IN THIS ASSOCIATION, YOU WILL MEET THAT CHALLENGE. CERTAINLY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE READY TO HELP.
