



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 562
19 September 1975

OFFICIAL CAR TRANSPORT

The Prime Minister has announced that as part of its deliberations on the Budget and in keeping with its desire to cut costs wherever practical, the Government has decided to restrict the use of official car transport. A number of measures have already been taken and further measures are in hand to achieve this objective.

Rules governing the use of official transport were last reviewed by the Rt. Hon. J. McEwen as Acting Prime Minister in April 1966.

New rules designed to curtail the use of cars have been approved and will apply to all Australian Government employees and to members of the Armed Forces.

The Australian Government transport authorities will maintain only skeleton staff on weekends and public holidays. Weekday services will also be closely examined to see whether further cost savings can be achieved whilst maintaining a reasonable level of service.

Ways and means of rationalising official transport to and from Canberra Airport and of extending the existing inter-departmental passenger bus service between major work locations in Canberra are under consideration.

Departments and other Australian Government instrumentalities are to be requested to review urgently all cars owned or on hire, in conjunction with the appropriate Australian Government transport authority, to ensure that their use is economic.

Whilst it is not possible to estimate precisely the full effect of these measures, it is considered that they will involve substantial savings in official transport costs.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

