



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 572

10 October 1975

THE RANGER URANIUM PROJECT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, the Minister for Minerals and Energy, Mr Connor, the Treasurer, Mr Hayden and Mr Mackay of Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia Ltd and Mr Proud of Peko Mines Ltd announced today the results of the discussions they have been having on the Ranger Uranium Project in the Northern Territory.

On 31 October 1974 the Minister for Minerals and Energy announced that agreement had been reached with Peko Mines Ltd and Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia Ltd on the terms for the financing and construction of the Ranger uranium project in the Northern Territory.

Peko/EZ subsequently sought further discussions with the Government to clarify in their mind the meaning of some of the terms agreed to in October of last year. These discussions have been held for the past three days and understanding has been reached with Peko/EZ on the principles of the arrangements necessary for the development of the Ranger project. These very productive discussions with Peko/EZ clear the way for further development of the project. The next steps will be a series of discussions between Government and company representatives for the purpose of drawing up detailed formal agreements covering the project.

Further development of the project is subject, of course, to the outcome of the Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry headed by Mr Justice Fox.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.