

L10112  
12

FOR PRESS

DECEMBER 8, 1975

THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

THE LIBERAL AND NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY COALITION INTEND THAT THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL WILL BE ABSOLUTELY INDEPENDENT. ASTEC WILL ADVISE ON THE WHOLE RANGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MATTERS IN GOVERNMENT AND ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, UNIVERSITIES AND INDUSTRY.

THE COUNCIL WILL BE THE MAJOR INDEPENDENT ADVISOR TO GOVERNMENT ON SUCH MATTERS AS:

- (1) THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO NATIONAL NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES.
- (2) NEW AREAS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH ARE OF IMPORTANCE TO AUSTRALIA, INCLUDING FIELDS OF INDUSTRIALLY AND COMMERCIALLY ORIENTED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.
- (3) THE BALANCE, ADEQUACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF NATIONAL EFFORTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING DEFENCE SCIENCE, AND MEANS FOR IMPROVING EFFICIENCY IN THE USE OF RESOURCES.
- (4) THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EFFORTS IN THOSE FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH MAY CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE AND TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE.
- (5) THE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL MANPOWER.

AS THE PROBLEMS OF SCIENCE INVOLVE ALL AREAS OF GOVERNMENT, AND ARE OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO AUSTRALIA, ASTEC WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHO WILL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT. THE COUNCIL WILL BE A BODY OF THE HIGHEST STATUS AND GREATEST INDEPENDENCE.

THE DAMAGE DONE TO C.S.I.R.O.'S MORALE AND PRODUCTIVITY BY MR CONNOR'S UNILATERAL GRAB FOR POWER WILL BE REMEDIED. WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF C.S.I.R.O. IS MAINTAINED.

THE ABILITY OF THE A.R.G.C. TO SUPPORT EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE RESEARCH WILL BE GREATLY STRENGTHENED. FINANCE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON A TRIENNIAL BASIS WHICH WILL PERMIT LONG-TERM AND PREDICTABLE RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAMMES.

TRIENNIAL FUNDING WILL ALSO BE RESTORED FOR UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND SCHOOL PROGRAMMES.

THE NEGLECT OF MEDICAL RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTED BY LABOR'S SLASHING OF FUNDS THROUGH A "CLERICAL ERROR" RESULTED IN MANY OF OUR LEADING MEDICAL RESEARCHERS CONSIDERING EMMIGRATION. WE WILL STRENGTHEN ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH, AND ENSURE THAT RESEARCH IN THESE AREAS CAN RESPOND TO CONTEMPORARY COMMUNITY NEEDS.

WE WILL CLOSELY CONSIDER THE SCIENCE TASK FORCE REPORT TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION WHICH WAS RELEASED ON TUESDAY.

FOR PRESS

DECEMBER 8, 1975

THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

THE LIBERAL AND NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY COALITION INTEND THAT THE AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL WILL BE ABSOLUTELY INDEPENDENT. ASTEC WILL ADVISE ON THE WHOLE RANGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MATTERS IN GOVERNMENT AND ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, UNIVERSITIES AND INDUSTRY.

THE COUNCIL WILL BE THE MAJOR INDEPENDENT ADVISOR TO GOVERNMENT ON SUCH MATTERS AS:

- (1) THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO NATIONAL NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES.
- (2) NEW AREAS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH ARE OF IMPORTANCE TO AUSTRALIA, INCLUDING FIELDS OF INDUSTRIALLY AND COMMERCIALY ORIENTED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.
- (3) THE BALANCE, ADEQUACY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF NATIONAL EFFORTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING DEFENCE SCIENCE, AND MEANS FOR IMPROVING EFFICIENCY IN THE USE OF RESOURCES.
- (4) THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EFFORTS IN THOSE FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH MAY CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE AND TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE.
- (5) THE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILISATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL MANPOWER.

AS THE PROBLEMS OF SCIENCE INVOLVE ALL AREAS OF GOVERNMENT, AND ARE OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO AUSTRALIA, ASTEC WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHO WILL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT. THE COUNCIL WILL BE A BODY OF THE HIGHEST STATUS AND GREATEST INDEPENDENCE.

THE DAMAGE DONE TO C.S.I.R.O.'S MORALE AND PRODUCTIVITY BY MR CONNOR'S UNILATERAL GRAB FOR POWER WILL BE REMEDIED. WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF C.S.I.R.O. IS MAINTAINED.

THE ABILITY OF THE A.R.G.C. TO SUPPORT EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE RESEARCH WILL BE GREATLY STRENGTHENED. FINANCE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON A TRIENNIAL BASIS WHICH WILL PERMIT LONG-TERM AND PREDICTABLE RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAMMES.

TRIENNIAL FUNDING WILL ALSO BE RESTORED FOR UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND SCHOOL PROGRAMMES.

THE NEGLECT OF MEDICAL RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTED BY LABOR'S SLASHING OF FUNDS THROUGH A "CLERICAL ERROR" RESULTED IN MANY OF OUR LEADING MEDICAL RESEARCHERS CONSIDERING EMMIGRATION. WE WILL STRENGTHEN ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH, AND ENSURE THAT RESEARCH IN THESE AREAS CAN RESPOND TO CONTEMPORARY COMMUNITY NEEDS.

WE WILL CLOSELY CONSIDER THE SCIENCE TASK FORCE REPORT TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION WHICH WAS RELEASED ON TUESDAY.