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PRIME MINISTER

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FUTURE MAJOR AIRPORT NEEDS OF SYDNEY

The Prime Minister, The Right Hon. Malcolm Fraser, and the N.S.W. Premier, the Hon. Neville Wran, today announced the establishment of a Committee of senior Commonwealth and State officials to recommend a suitable strategy for airport development and associated land use and surface access in the Sydney area.

Mr Fraser and Mr Wran noted that the absence of a firm policy towards future air transport needs for Sydney had helped to generate public controversy and had inhibited proper planning. It could be to the detriment of Sydney and of New South Wales generally if further undue delay in determining future strategies were to prejudice the selection of the most appropriate options and add seriously to eventual costs. This could lead to a situation where future air transport demands were not adequately met.

The Committee will examine existing airports and the possibility of establishing a major airport at a new site.

The Committee is to report to the two Governments within eighteen months. In reaching its conclusions, the Committee will take into account all relevant factors - economic, financial, social, technical, operational, environmental, land use and community attitudes. It will also inform and consult the airlines, unions, local government authorities, community organisations, and other interested parties.

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The Commonwealth Minister for Transport, the Hon. P.J. Nixon, and the State Minister for Planning and Environment, the Hon. D.P. Landa, will be meeting shortly to finalise the necessary detailed arrangements.

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