



Embargoed until 2.45

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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

19 FEBRUARY 1977

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE ACTING PREMIER  
OF VICTORIA, THE HONOURABLE L. H. S. THOMPSON, CMG, MP

### NEW NATIONAL HIGHWAY SIGN UNVEILED

The first of Australia's new National Highway roadside identification signs was officially unveiled by the Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, on the Hume Highway near Wodonga today.

The Acting Premier of Victoria, Mr. L. H. S. Thompson, and the Commonwealth Minister for Transport, Mr. Peter Nixon, attended.

A joint statement issued by Mr. Fraser and Mr. Thompson described the sign as a symbol of Commonwealth-State co-operation in roads matters, particularly in the area of National Highways.

"It is appropriate that the first sign should be on the Hume Highway - one of Australia's most important road links, linking as it does the two major cities of the Commonwealth," they said.

"The Commonwealth and the States believe that National Highways - which are vital to the Australian economy as a whole - should be specially identified.

"As a result, all Governments have co-operated in the design of signs which will clearly indicate this recognition to travellers on the system."

It was proposed that the first of the new signs would be erected at points on each National Highway near the boundary of each capital city.

The signs would be six-by-eight feet and, against a green background, would carry the Australian Coat of Arms, map of Australia, and the words "Australian National Highways" in reflecting yellow paint.

It was also proposed to replace existing highway route markers in the same green and gold colours following a trial introduction on the Hume Highway between Wangaratta (Vic.) and Holbrook (N.S.W.) and on the National Highway east of Adelaide.

/The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth Government has allocated almost \$400 million to the States for spending on National Highways in the period 1974-77.

The total National Highway system - which covered more than 16,000 kilometres - connected all Australian capital cities and serviced important centres of trade, commerce, mining and recreation.

Under the National Roads Act, the States were eligible for financial assistance for approved construction works on declared National Highways.

Footnote: Mr. Fraser was visiting Albury-Wodonga for a Liberal Party Regional Convention and other official engagements.