



PRIME MINISTER

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STUDY GROUP ON MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

The Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, announced today the membership and terms of reference of a group to undertake a study of the adjustment problems of the most highly protected Australian manufacturing industries.

Mr. Fraser had announced on 26 August in a speech to the Chamber of Manufactures of New South Wales that Sir John Crawford would be Chairman of the group to conduct the study.

The other members of the group will be Sir Brian Inglis (Chairman of the Government's Australian Manufacturing Council and Managing Director of Ford Australia); Mr. R. J. L. Hawke (President, Australian Council of Trade Unions); and Mr. N. S. Currie (Secretary, Department of Industry and Commerce).

The terms of reference for the study will be:

"Undertake a study into the nature and extent of adjustment problems of Australian manufacturing industries, with particular reference to the most highly protected industries arising from changes in the internal and external environments. Advise on the essential elements in a long-term policy to deal with these problems having regard to the implications of the likely patterns of industries growth and employment prospects, and the capacity of the economy to sustain changes in the industrial structure".

The Prime Minister said that Sir John Crawford would be available to begin this work in late October and it was expected that the report of the group would be submitted by August 1978.

The Departments of Industry and Commerce and Business and Consumer Affairs would provide support and secretariat services for the study and the group has been assured it will have access to other Departments and institutions to obtain information and views on the matters under study. The group will determine its own procedures but it will be free to seek submissions from public authorities, interested parties and the public generally if it wishes.

"This study will be of considerable importance to the Government in helping to further define our long-term policies for implementation when growth has been restored to satisfactory levels", the Prime Minister said.