



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

13 NOVEMBER 1977

JOINT COMMONWEALTH-STATE REVIEW OF THE ORD RIVER IRRIGATION AREA

The Prime Minister and the Premier of Western Australia announced today that a joint Commonwealth-State Review is to be established to report to both Governments on the future development of the Ord River Irrigation Area.

The proposed Review has been the subject of discussion and correspondence between the Prime Minister and the Premier for some months, and its purpose is to assist the Governments in considering the proper course of future development of the region and the role of Governments in that development.

There will be an assessment of agricultural development and research in the region to date, and an assessment of further potential development in the medium and long term, having regard to future domestic and world markets for food, fibre and other commodities which have potential in the region.

There will also be an assessment of the impact of development to date and of potential future development on activities adjacent to the area, on the environment, and on the Aboriginal community.

Both Governments are interested in the future development of the region, and see the Review as providing a positive contribution to enable the direction of future development to be properly guided.

The Chairman of the Review, who is still to be appointed, will be supported by officers from both the Commonwealth and State Governments.

It is expected that the Review will take some six months from its establishment.

Detailed terms of reference and arrangements for the Review are to be discussed between officials of the two Governments and will be announced as soon as possible.

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