



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

29 MAY 1978

GRANT TO THE AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF TECHNOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The Government is to provide \$100,000 to the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences in the 1978-79 financial year.

The decision is in accordance with the Government's policy of encouraging technological development and adaptation in Australian industry.

The Academy of Technological Sciences has a fundamental role to play in the technological innovation process in Australia.

Through its distinguished and broadly based membership, it has become an important forum for discussion and advice to Government and the community on technological matters.

The recent and successful Symposium on Energy organised by the Academy with the co-operation of the then Department of National Resources is an example of the important role which the Academy can play in co-ordinating informed discussion of important technology oriented issues in Australian society.

Since coming to office the Government has taken major long term decisions to provide a framework for encouraging technological development in Australia.

These include:

- . the Government's decision to establish by statute an Australian Science and Technology Council, legislation for which was recently introduced to Parliament.
- . the reorganisation of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial research Organisation which was announced on 11 May 1978
- . The decision towards the technological development through a joint government-industry effort of the INTERSCAN microwave aircraft landing system developed by CSIRO and the Department of Transport and recently adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation

The decision to undertake a review of industrial research and development which was announced last November is now in progress and will draw on the forthcoming report on science and technology

in Australia being prepared by ASTEC and the studies being undertaken by the Senate Standing Committee on Science and Environment.

The grant of \$100,000 to the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences is provided as a contribution towards the general purposes of the Academy and on the same basis as the Commonwealth Government grants to the other learned Academies. The grant, as is the case with grants to the other learned Academies, will be administered by the Department of Science.

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