

Prime Minister Interviewed at Fairbairn on departure to Darwin

7 September 1978

Question:

Prime Minister, how real is the danger of the Uranium development being set back by the Northern Land Council?

Prime Minister:

I wouldn't think so. The stories in the paper this morning were imaginative. One of them said "Fraser is rushing up to have discussions and negotiations". Well I've been planning to go up for the opening of the Northern Territory Parliament certainly for months. It's obvious that while in the Northern Territory I would be having discussions with a variety of people.

Question:

Will Ranger get going on time?

Prime Minister:

I believe it will, yes.

Question:

Doesn't approval of a road though imply that the project itself will be approved?

Prime Minister:

No. Not at all.

Question:

Why would they build a road then through reserves?

Prime Minister:

It's their risk. It has been made perfectly plain that that's so.

Question:

Just one other point. The Caltex Oil Company has asked you to overrule the PJT and give more money.

Prime Minister:

I saw that in the newspapers this morning too. Let's see what happens when I'm approached, if an approach comes to me direct.

Question:

Do you think it's fair though that they should get the full impost of your tax applied?

Prime Minister:

All I know about this is what I've read in the newspapers, and so I'm not going to ~~comment~~ any more than that.
comment

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