



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

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### GRANT TO WORLD WILDLIFE FUND AUSTRALIA

The Commonwealth Government has allocated \$50,000 in the 1978/79 Budget for World Wildlife Fund Australia, following its active support to the setting up of the Fund in Australia.

The World Wildlife Fund is a well respected international organisation established in 1961. Its headquarters are in Switzerland and 27 countries have independent national organisations. By the end of 1977 the Fund had disbursed over \$30 million for some 1,800 projects in 131 countries.

World Wildlife Fund Australia was incorporated in New South Wales under the Companies Act on 29 June 1978 as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. Its aim is to raise money and support for the preservation of the natural heritage, particularly threatened habitat and wildlife species.

Although the Fund's secretariat is based in Sydney, its operation is being developed on an Australia-wide basis.

A Conservation Program Committee has been established comprised of a number of leading scientists and conservationists chosen on a multi-discipline basis from universities, government and the community. It will be responsible for selecting projects for financing from submissions made by conservation groups, governments and other agencies.

It is anticipated that the Fund will work in cooperation with other conservation organisations. In this way these organisations could be involved in additional projects.

The majority of funds raised by World Wildlife Fund Australia will be allocated to Australian projects. Some funds may be allocated to projects located in the neighbouring South Pacific countries.

It is extremely satisfying that the business community has already given considerable support to the World Wildlife Fund Australia. The World Wildlife Fund Australia is indeed fortunate to have obtained the services of so eminent an Australian businessman as Sir Noel Foley, C.B.E. as the President.