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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER 1979

AIRFIELD DEVELOPMENT IN DERBY W.A.

The Commonwealth Government is giving consideration to improving defence capabilities in northern Australia.

The Department of Defence is currently delineating the optimum location south of Derby, Western Australia for a major RAAF airfield.

The Western Australian Government is cooperating in this work.

Investigations are already underway involving drilling operations, and topographical surveys are to commence soon.

It is intended to develop this airfield as a bare base capable of supporting all RAAF operational aircraft.

It is expected to be similar to the base at Learmonth which has been under development for some time.

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