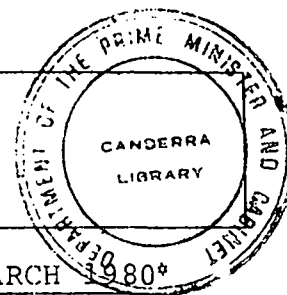




PRIME MINISTER



FOR MEDIA

THURSDAY 20 MARCH 1980*

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE GOVERNMENT AGREE ON
DEVELOPMENT OF NAVAL BASE AT WOOLLOOMOOLOO

The Commonwealth is to acquire the Maritime Services Board wharves on the eastern side of Woolloomooloo Bay in Sydney for the Navy.

The Commonwealth Government also has decided that a multi-storey car park should be built in Cowper Wharf Road near Garden Island.

Both projects are part of a long-term plan to modernise the Garden Island Naval Dockyard and Fleet Base at an estimated cost of \$180 million in 1978 prices.

The primary objectives of the modernisation plan are to improve the operating efficiency and physical environment of Garden Island.

Agreement has been reached with the New South Wales Government to purchase Nos. 2, 3 and 4 wharves at Woolloomooloo. The purchase will help overcome a serious shortage of wharf space at Garden Island. The wharves will be provided with the full range of shore services including power, compressed air and sewerage, so that ships alongside would not need to run machinery, thus avoiding pollution.

The Government approved in principle the first stage of the modernisation of Garden Island last year. This included construction of a utilities building, a weapons/electronic workshop, a refit berth support facility, and groundworks. The total estimated cost is about \$17 million.

The multi-level car park, to be located along the northern cliff face of Cowper Wharf Road, was included in the first stage of modernisation at the request of the Premier of NSW, Mr. Wran.

The facility will provide accommodation for the cars owned by Garden Island civilian and Service personnel, during working hours, and a large part of it will be available for use by local residents and visitors for night-time parking.

The roof of the car park will be surfaced with lawns and garden and this will provide a much needed amenity for the residents of the surrounding area.

In addition, arrangements will be developed to improve public access to the northern headland and other historic areas of Garden Island.

The car park proposal will be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for hearing in conjunction with the previously announced Garden Island stage one modernisation works. This hearing is expected to occur in the latter half of this year.