



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY, 1981

EXPOSITION PROPOSAL FOR 1988

The Prime Minister, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, and the Premier of New South Wales, Mr. Neville Wran, today announced that their two Governments had completed the examination of proposals to stage a Modified Universal Exposition in Sydney as part of the Bicentenary celebrations.

Mr. Fraser and Mr. Wran stated that a great deal of thought and initiative had been devoted by the Australian Bicentennial Authority to the development of plans for the Exposition and they wished to place on record their appreciation of these efforts. However, it was clear that a very substantial capital outlay which could be up to \$1,000 million, would be required to ensure the successful staging of the Exposition. The Governments had reluctantly concluded that it was impractical for them to agree to make the necessary funds available, being conscious of their heavy commitments for basic infrastructure in support of industry and services such as hospitals and schools.

The two Governments were determined, however, that Australia's Bicentenary should be celebrated in a manner fitting to such a significant event. They would therefore co-operate to the maximum in arrangements to achieve this objective and give recognition to the historic role of Sydney in such celebrations.

For its part the Commonwealth Government would also be asking the Australian Bicentennial Authority to put before it options for activities to take place in all States in 1988 on a scale smaller than that envisaged for the Exposition.

The Prime Minister indicated that he would propose to list these for consideration at the next Premier's Conference.