



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY 1981.

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF
NOMINATION FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

On 14 September 1980, in a joint statement with the Premier of Queensland, I announced the nomination of the Great Barrier Reef for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

The nomination documents have since been lodged with the World Heritage Committee in Paris. The next meeting of this international Committee will be hosted by Australia in Sydney next October, when this important nomination will be reviewed.

The World Heritage List, which already contains more than eighty places, provides clear evidence of the achievements of past and present civilisations, and I believe that the Great Barrier Reef, with its unique qualities, will constitute a novel and important addition.

The Queensland Government has offered to participate in providing facilities for the members of the World Heritage Committee to visit the Reef during their stay in Australia.

The achievement of this important step in bringing to the widest attention one of the most fascinating natural phenomena in the world has been possible only through the harmonious co-operation of the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments which has ensured the protection of the Reef.

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