



*Spore* 10

## PRIME MINISTER

### INQUIRY INTO ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND THE SHARING OF POWER RESOURCES IN SOUTH-EAST AUSTRALIA

The Prime Minister announced today that he had received the Report of the joint Commonwealth/State Committee of Inquiry into Electricity Generation and the Sharing of Power Resources in South-East Australia. The Premiers of the participating States of New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria have agreed that the Report be made publicly available in view of the interest shown within both the electricity supply industry and the general community.

The Committee of Inquiry was established in April 1980 under the chairmanship of Sir David Zeidler and comprised representatives of the Commonwealth and each of the participating States. The Inquiry's main function was to examine the feasibility of a strongly integrated electricity supply grid in South-East Australia and the requirement, location and type of new power stations to supply such an inter-connected system.

While the Committee reports that there is no financial justification for the establishment of a strongly integrated grid in the 1980s, it recommends development of an appropriate basis for the establishment of a limited extension of the existing New South Wales/Victoria interconnected system to South Australia. The Committee considers that the feasibility of a strongly integrated grid should continue to be reviewed.

The Prime Minister said that the Governments concerned would be reviewing the report and recommendations and considering the scope for action.

The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation of the work of Sir David Zeidler and the Committee in undertaking a difficult and exacting task. The Inquiry represented an important example of Commonwealth/State co-operation and had been greatly assisted by the considerable support provided by each participant's electricity authority.