



EMBARGO: 5.00 pm

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## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

SUNDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 1981

### ELECTORATE TALK

Earlier this year I made a joint statement with the Victorian Premier announcing that the Commonwealth would make a gift of \$5 million to Victoria to mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Hentys at Portland, and the settlement of Melbourne one year later.

Since the time of that announcement, discussions about how the money should be spent have been held with the Victorian Government which in turn received advice from the Citizens' Council of Victoria's 150th Anniversary Celebrations, under the chairmanship of Sir John Holland. It has now been decided that the \$5 million will be spread between three projects. These projects cover a wide range of interests, and each one will be identified as an anniversary project, funded by the Commonwealth Government as part of its contribution to the celebrations by the people of Victoria.

One of the projects is the development of the second stage of the West Gate Park. This park is part of an overall plan for the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers. It will provide unique parkland and leisure facilities, especially for the people who live in the western suburbs of Melbourne, and there will be special provision for the disabled. Work on stage one is currently under way, and stage two is especially timely as it will lend itself to further development for Australia's 1988 bicentennial celebrations.

The second project is the development of a Gallery of Sport along similar lines to the famous centre in Los Angeles. This project follows up the outstanding success of the Cricket Museum at the Melbourne Cricket Club which has attracted thousands of people since its establishment in 1969. The Gallery of Sport should attract many more people and it will be a major tourist attraction. The Gallery of Sport will be a museum and education centre for all sports, and it will incorporate the cricket museum. It will be attached to the M.C.C., it will be accessible to the public, and it will also be clearly identified as a 150th anniversary project. Since sport is so much a part of the Australian way of life, this particular project is highly suitable to these 150th anniversary celebrations.

The third project relates to a proposal by the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria to establish an Agricultural Historical and Educational centre at the showgrounds. Final plans for this venture, which would display a range of agricultural activities in a historical and technological context, will depend on the results of a detailed feasibility study.

The Commonwealth Government believes that these three projects which are relevant to the concerns of the city and country people, and which incorporate a special sporting dimension as well, gather together some of the major strands of the history and character of Victoria. I look forward to the completion of these projects as a forerunner to a successful celebration of Victoria's 150th anniversary in 1984-85, and I am delighted to announce these details of the Commonwealth's involvement.

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