



PRIME MINISTER

Friday 11 March 1983

VISIT BY THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES

The Prince and Princess of Wales have offered to visit areas ravaged by bushfires in Victoria and South Australia to express their sympathy to those most affected. I have accordingly agreed that the visit to the Australian Capital Territory should be shortened to take place on Thursday 24 March and the morning of Friday 25 March to facilitate these changed arrangements. I welcome the proposed special visits as do the Premiers of Victoria and South Australia.

The visit to a bushfire area in Victoria will take place on the afternoon of Friday 25 March and to a South Australian area on the morning of Saturday 26 March. Details will be announced by the Premiers of those States.

The Royal Visit will start with the arrival of Their Royal Highnesses in Alice Springs on Sunday 20 March and end in Melbourne on Sunday 17 April on their departure for New Zealand.

The program will enable Their Royal Highnesses to see and be seen by many thousands of Australians and it will also enable the Royal couple to visit a broad cross-section of the country in outback and tropical Australia, rural centres and industrial cities and State capitals and the national capital. Emphasis has been placed on engagements involving young people and school children and on informal walks among members of the public.

As foreshadowed, Prince William will stay at the home base at Woomargama station near Alburn throughout the visit. Their Royal Highnesses will return there for rest in privacy between the official visits to the State and Territories.

The official program includes the Northern Territory (20-22 March), the Australian Capital Territory (24-25 March), New South Wales (28-29 March), Tasmania (30-31 March), South Australia (5-6 April), Western Australia (6-8 April), Queensland (11-12 April) and Victoria (14-15 April).

Visit to Canberra

On the morning of Thursday 24 March the Canberra program will include:

- . Ceremonial arrival at RAAF Base Fairbairn
- . Civic welcome and informal walk at Civic Square
- . Visit to the new Parliament House site

Their Royal Highnesses will attend a luncheon at The Lodge and in the evening a dinner which will be held at Government House.

On the morning of Friday 25 March the program will include:

- . Visit to the Woden Special School
- . Visit to the Erindale College and Community Centre
- . Garden Party given by the Prime Minister in the Senate Gardens for young people representing Canberra community organisations.

The Royal couple will then visit the Australian War Memorial and leave RAAF Base Fairbairn early in the afternoon for Melbourne.