



ACTING

PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

3 JUNE 1983

The Acting Prime Minister, Mr Bowen, today sent the following telex to the Premier of Tasmania, Mr Gray.

My dear Premier

I have been advised that Tasmania wishes to postpone the meeting scheduled for next Tuesday and planned to consider alternative employment for workers currently employed on the Gordon below Franklin project.

I strongly urge that discussions proceed as planned. Should work on the dam stop, it will be in the interest of both our Governments that alternative projects are taken up as soon as possible. Clearly this is a matter of great importance to the workers and contractors involved.

I reiterate that, as stated by the Prime Minister in his letter to you of 17 May, the meeting would be on the basis that it would be without prejudice to Tasmania's position on the issue.

Yours sincerely

Lionel Bowen
Acting Prime Minister

INFORMATIVELY THE MINISTER FOR RESOURCES AND ENERGY, SENATOR PETER WALSH, HAD BEEN APPOINTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR HAWKE, TO LEAD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S REPRESENTATION AT THE TALKS WHICH WERE TO HAVE BEEN HELD IN HOBART.