



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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An industrial monitoring committee will be established to monitor and advise on the transfer of former Gordon-below-Franklin dam workers to new projects.

The committee, which will consist of representatives of the Federal and State Governments, the unions and the Hydro-Electric Commission, will ensure that no workers are disadvantaged in the transfers.

It was agreed to establish the committee at a meeting today between myself and a representative delegation from Tasmania consisting of the State Opposition Leader, Mr. Ken Wriedt, the General Manager of EZ, Mr. Reg Barker, the President of the Tasmanian Trade Union Council, Mr. John Devereux, the Secretary of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers, Mr. Laurie Kelly, the Warden of Queenstown, Mr. Peter Schulze, and the Secretary of The Tasmanian Trades and Labor Council, Mr. Bob Watling.

The meeting also agreed that discussions between the Federal and Tasmanian Governments should proceed quickly on a thorough investigation of the State's power needs, which can most appropriately be met by hydro-electricity.

The investigation will ensure that Tasmania will not be disadvantaged in its future economic development because of a lack of appropriate energy supplies.

In response to issues raised by Mr. Schulze, it was agreed that the needs of the West Coast community would be fully taken into account in discussion of alternative employment projects and the future management of the South West.

It was also agreed that I should visit the South West soon, after further work has been done on the development of alternative employment projects which will ensure no former Dam workers will be disadvantaged.

I was very grateful that the delegation and its individual members could find the time to discuss these issues with me and the constructive manner in which they approached these talks.