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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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PROPOSALS FOR TASMANIAN EMPLOYMENT CREATION CONSEQUENT ON CESSATION OF THE GORDON-BELOW-FRANKLIN SCHEME

The Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, said today he advised the Tasmanian Premier, Mr Gray, on 12 October 1984 of a number of projects nominated by the Commonwealth to be funded from the remaining amount of \$9 million being provided by the Commonwealth for employment creation in Tasmania consequent upon the cessation of the Gordon-below-Franklin scheme. The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Prime Minister and the Premier on 26 June 1984 provides for additional expenditure on employment generating on projects nominated by either Government and approved by the other.

Mr Hawke said that the following projects, nominated by the Commonwealth under these arrangements, will both create much needed employment in Tasmania and provide worthwhile longer-term benefits to the people of Tasmania:

- Provision of community amenities on public housing estates and youth accommodation in major urban centres at a cost of about \$1 million.

Additional Commonwealth funding would be provided for construction of neighbourhood houses or a combination of neighbourhood houses and community health centres on public housing estates at locations such as Mornington, Warrane, Goodwood and Chigwell. Funding would also be provided for construction of semi-self-contained accommodation for young people in the larger urban centres.

In addition to providing immediate employment opportunities, these projects would provide much needed facilities for people seeking public housing and for young people in need of accommodation.

Conservation and restoration of selected Commonwealth and other historic buildings and sites in Tasmania.

The Commonwealth would carry out conservation and restoration works on a number of historic Commonwealth buildings, for example, the Customs House, Beaumaris House and Anglesea Barracks in Hobart, and the Ross and Campbelltown post offices, and also provide funds to the State for similar works on other historic buildings and sites throughout Tasmania which are of heritage significance. One important project under consideration is the construction of a by-pass road and site fencing at the Port Arthur historic site to avoid accidental traffic damage to buildings and to lessen the potential for vandalism.

This proposal, involving Commonwealth funding of about \$3 million, would provide employment for Tasmanians with a wide range of skills and contribute significantly to preserving Tasmania's heritage and to the further enhancement of Tasmania as a tourist destination.

- . Construction of the Dunn Street Building, as an extension to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery.

This would provide urgently needed space for zoological and botanical collections and laboratories and other sections of the Museum. The Commonwealth is prepared to contribute \$4 million towards the cost of constructing the building.

- . Launceston sewerage and drainage improvements.

The Commonwealth is prepared to contribute approximately \$4 million for sewerage and drainage improvements in Launceston, provided agreement can be reached with the Tasmanian Government and the Launceston City Council on an appropriate program of works and on shared funding arrangements to ensure that those works can be completed.

- . Provision of ABC television services to remote or underserved communities.

This project would involve expenditure by the Commonwealth of about \$1 million on the provision of translators to relay ABC-TV services to a number of Tasmanian localities where, due to their very difficult terrain, TV services are either unavailable or seriously inadequate. In the absence of this initiative, it is unlikely that these communities would receive such services until sometime after 1986-87. Communities which may be considered for extension of services under this proposal could include New Norfolk, Maydena, Geeveston, Cygnet, Tarraleah and Triabunna. However, the final list of communities would need to be determined following further study in the coming weeks.

While the total value of the Commonwealth's proposals exceeds the remaining amount of \$9 million for employment creating purposes, the arrangements set out in the Memorandum of Understanding provide for consultations between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian Government for the purpose of agreeing on the allocation of the available funds to those projects which offer the greatest benefits to the people of Tasmania.

Mr Hawke noted in this regard that the employment projects nominated by the Commonwealth would span many different regions and localities in Tasmania and would therefore provide employment opportunities and longer-term social and economic benefits to a wide range of Tasmanian people.

Mr Hawke also noted that he had advised Premier Gray on 5 October 1984 that the Commonwealth had agreed to allocate a further \$3 million for the development of Hobart Airport from the funds being provided by the Commonwealth for employment creation following the cessation of the Gordon-below-Franklin scheme. This brings to \$6 million the amount allocated for the development of Hobart Airport under these arrangements and will enable fully laden Boeing 747-200 aircraft to operate direct services between Hobart and Singapore and Hobart and Auckland.