



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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The Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, and the Premier of South Australia, Mr John Bannon, today announced joint funding of a \$2.8 million Riverboat Museum and educational display centre at Goolwa, adjacent to the mouth of the Murray River.

Mr Hawke and Mr Bannon said this important historical project was part of the \$5 million Commonwealth contribution to fund Bicentennial commemorative projects in South Australia which are intended to provide lasting testimonies to the Bicentenary in 1988.

Mr Hawke said that the Commonwealth Government has allocated nearly \$200 million for the Bicentennial activities which will include the development of many projects at a local level.

"This is the first of a number of exciting projects in South Australia which will enhance and enrich the lives of ordinary Australians for generations to come", Mr Hawke said.

The project consists of the River Murray Interpretive Centre and a River Boat Museum at Goolwa, the last town on the Murray River before it meets the Southern Ocean. It was partly as a result of Captain Charles Sturt's dream of using this access to the Southern Ocean as an outlet for the trade of inland Australia that South Australia was founded.

The River Murray Interpretive Centre will be located on a site overlooking the river and will interpret the river system, the largest in Australia, covering the themes of exploration, transport, irrigation, domestic water supply, environmental issues and the history and culture of the coastal Aborigines who lived around the Coorong, the river and lakes of the Murray Mouth.

The River Boat Museum will consist of both a fixed display and a working paddle steamer to recreate the era of the River Boats.

The complex, apart from catering for the tourist, will also provide an education facility for students who, with the aid of a permanently employed education officer, will be provided with an exciting and instructional program on the history and issues relating to the River.