



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

25 JUNE 1985

## JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER FOR ARTS, HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT

The Prime Minister, Mr Hawke and the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, Mr Barry Cohen, today announced Commonwealth Government plans for the development of the National Maritime Museum in Sydney at Darling Harbour.

The Commonwealth has accepted the offer of the New South Wales Government of a 4.75 hectare site for the Museum in the Darling Harbour Redevelopment Area.

"The Government is committed to fostering the development of the national collections and the establishment of the National Maritime Museum will be an important link in the preservation and display of our maritime heritage", Mr Hawke said.

"It is expected that the first stage of the Museum will be constructed by 1988 at a cost of the order of \$25m. The Museum will be a major project for the Bicentennial Year and one for which there have already been expressions of interest in sponsorship from governments overseas", the Prime Minister said.

In joining with the Prime Minister, Mr Cohen announced that the Council of the Museum of Australia had agreed to appoint an Advisory Committee to prepare for Government a detailed plan for construction, including costs and administrative matters within six months.

"The National Maritime Museum will not be a dry repository of relics but a living institution, of interest both to Australians and overseas visitors, which would provide a major educational and research facility for Australia", Mr Cohen said.