



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

6 September 1985

The Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, today announced details of the Australian Bicentennial Exhibition, a major project being funded under the Commonwealth Government's National Bicentennial Program and organised by the Australian Bicentennial Authority.

The Federal Government will contribute \$19m towards the Exhibition while the Australian company, BHP, will provide additional sponsorship of \$6m.

Mr Hawke said it was fitting that BHP, Australia's largest company, should choose to support the largest exhibition ever to tour Australia.

The company's substantial contribution is a mark of its confidence in our nation and will provide a stimulus for further private sector involvement in the celebrations.

The Australian Bicentennial Exhibition will be an exciting, innovative project for all Australians to enjoy and will be a focus in making our Bicentennial celebrations an unprecedented success.

The Exhibition will tour all States, the Northern Territory and the ACT visiting more than fifty cities and towns over a 19 month period beginning in mid 1987.

It is expected to attract at least four million visitors and television coverage will take it to a much wider audience.

The mobile venue for the Exhibition has been designed by the Australian architectural firm, Daryl Jackson Pty Ltd, with the Commonwealth Department of Housing and Construction acting as project manager for the design and construction phases.

Daryl Jackson's competition-winning proposals envisage approximately twenty purpose-built pantechnicons travelling as a giant road train to transport the Exhibition around the country.

The content of the Exhibition is being designed around the Bicentennial theme, 'Living Together', and will explore Australia's past, present and future.

Drawing on a range of sophisticated technology, the displays will cover such diverse areas as cartography, mining, immigration, science, agriculture, environmental issues, cultural activities, leisure, and the law.

Active community involvement will be encouraged as an important element of this imaginative Bicentennial project which promises to be lively, informative and entertaining.