



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

November 27 1985

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR HAWKE, AND THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PREMIER, MR BANNON

An agreement to transfer the Port Augusta-Woomera high tension power line from Commonwealth to South Australian Government ownership was signed today.

Mr Hawke and Mr Bannon said the transfer was a significant step towards transforming the Woomera Village from a Defence Department establishment into a normal Australian town.

They said Commonwealth and State officials had been discussing the transfer of other facilities such as the water supply.

The long term objective was for the Department of Defence to relinquish control of Woomera Village to local government.

The transfer of the power line will allow the South Australian Government to service the development of the Roxby Downs copper and gold mining project at Olympic Dam.

Construction of Woomera Village, which the power line services, began in 1946.

The Village was the administrative, technical and residential centre of the Woomera rocket range which was used for British missile and space tests for more than 30 years.

The Department of Defence maintains a limited capability at the Woomera range for short range guided weapons and other trials.

The range area is also used for Defence Force exercises.

Mr Hawke said he expected this Defence use of the range would continue into the foreseeable future and Defence personnel would continue to live in Woomera Village.

The agreement to transfer ownership of the power line was signed by the Minister for Defence, Mr Kim Beazley, and the South Australian Minister for Mines and Energy, Mr R G Payne.