



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

7 March 1986

### JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Commonwealth and Western Australian Government have agreed on new arrangements for completing the search for unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the Warnbro area, south of Fremantle.

Details were announced today by the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, and the West Australian Premier, Mr Burke.

Mr Burke welcomed the arrangements as a sensible cooperative measure.

Land in the Warnbro area was used in World War II as an artillery range by the Army.

The Commonwealth has funded searches for UXO in the area since 1980, he said.

As well as taking account of the growing pressures for further development of the Warnbro area, the new arrangements will enable the orderly and uninterrupted completion of the searching operations.

Mr Hawke said that under the new arrangements the Commonwealth will fund the search of a minimum area of 394 hectares at an estimated cost of \$940,000.

Depending on the rate at which UXO is found during the searches, the Commonwealth will fund further searches up to a maximum area of 848 hectares in the Warnbro area, bringing the total project cost to around \$2 million, he said.

Mr Hawke said after the searches were completed in accordance with these arrangements, the Commonwealth will respond, as necessary to any subsequent UXO finds on the same basis as that applying elsewhere in Australia.