



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

6 APRIL 1989

The Government has decided on a national program for responding to the global threat posed by the Greenhouse effect.

The Government's strategy involves a research-oriented program of action in the first instance. A great deal has yet to be learned about the Greenhouse effect, its timing and impact on different countries and regions. We cannot sit and wait until the effects of global warming are upon us and then start working out how we should deal with them. Modelling of those effects must start in earnest immediately so that we are in a position to anticipate and deal with the Greenhouse effect.

To ensure the Government is provided with accurate and timely advice, a National Greenhouse Advisory Committee of up to six experts will be appointed.

A key task for the National Greenhouse Advisory Committee will be to provide advice on priority areas for further Greenhouse research and set objectives for a dedicated research grants scheme. The Committee will also have the important role of promoting public understanding of Greenhouse issues.

To give effect to the first stage of the Government's strategy, \$7.8 million will be provided between now and 30 June 1990 for Greenhouse research and policy support.

The bulk of the funding, \$5.54 million, will be directed to CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology to enable full advantage to be taken of existing expertise and to build on work already done. This will provide an important first instalment of the national Greenhouse research program.

Other elements of the funding will enable:

- . Australia to maintain its close association with the World Climate Impact Studies Programme being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Program;
- . The Academy of Science to assist the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program, which studies the physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate the total earth system; and

- . The establishment of a comprehensive national climate program linked into the World Meteorological Organisation's World Climate Programme and the Second World Climate Conference in 1990 to be examined.

Greenhouse cannot be dismissed as just another environmental problem. It has the potential to change fundamentally within a single lifetime the way all nations and peoples live and work.

It clearly signals that we must reassess the way in which we use the earth's resources.

Through the Government's program for dealing with the twin problems of the Greenhouse effect and ozone layer depletion we are putting Australia at the forefront of international efforts to protect the earth's fragile natural environment.

