



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

18 AUGUST 1989

**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER  
AND THE LORD MAYOR OF NEWCASTLE, JOHN MCNAUGHTON**

We today had useful and constructive discussions on a total regional development program for Newcastle and surrounding areas.

We discussed a series of proposals relating to follow-up on the frigate project and development in the Hunter region more generally.

We are in agreement on the whole concept of accelerated development for the region. The Federal Government is calling for immediate work to be done on each of the Lord Mayor's proposals with a view to making announcements wherever possible within the next few weeks.

The Lord Mayor's proposals include:

- . Preservation of Carrington Slipways;
- . Funding support for a computerised data base on industrial and other capabilities;
- . The location of Commonwealth facilities in Newcastle; and
- . Access to funding within the recently announced Environment Statement.

The Federal Government wants to work in full co-operation with the New South Wales Government in the development of proposals for the advancement of the Hunter region. To this end we look forward to the continuation of the bi-partisan approach which characterised the lead-up to the decision on the frigate project.

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