



66

PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

28 DECEMBER 1989

The Prime Minister flew to Newcastle late this afternoon to assess first hand the situation resulting from today's earthquake.

He earlier sent the following two messages:

"MESSAGE TO NEWCASTLE WORKERS' CLUB

I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the families and friends of those affected by the earthquake damage to the Workers' Club. The loss of life and the injuries in this appalling event are truly tragic and the thoughts of all Australians will be with you and with all the citizens of Newcastle today."

"ALDERMAN JOHN MC NAUGHTON
LORD MAYOR OF NEWCASTLE

Like all Australians I was most distressed to hear the news today of the devastating earthquake in the Newcastle area and the loss of life, injuries and extensive damage to property which resulted.

I wish to express my deepest sympathy to all involved. Lionel Bowen, the Attorney-General will be visiting Newcastle to assess the situation and to advise me on it, but I want to let you know straight away that the full resources of the Australian Defence Force will be available through the National Disasters Organisation to assist the State Emergency Services in handling the situation should they judge that necessary."