



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

24 AUGUST 1990

The Government has appointed Professors Stuart Harris and David Throsby and Dr Roy Green to chair the working groups on ecologically sustainable development.

The formulation of strategies for ecologically sustainable development is one of the most pressing and important tasks facing my Government.

As indicated in June when the Government's discussion paper, *Ecologically Sustainable Development*, was released for public comment, nine sectoral working groups are being established. The working groups will include representatives of industry, the conservation and trade union movements and State/Territory and Commonwealth Governments, and the CSIRO. Consumer organisations will also be represented on relevant groups.

As well as the discussion paper, the working groups will have before them the comments which the Government has received on that paper. The Government is very pleased with the extent of the responses and the seriousness with which the issues raised have been addressed. Many respondents have identified a number of additional cross-sectoral issues that they consider warrant attention. The Chairs of the working groups are being asked to take all these cross-sectoral issues into account in the development of their sectoral proposals.

The Government will make public the additional issues identified in the comments. The Government will itself be considering all the issues raised in comments on the discussion paper.

Each Chairperson will chair three working groups. Professor Harris will be responsible for the mining, manufacturing, and energy production and distribution working groups; Professor Throsby for the transport, energy use and tourism working groups; and Dr Green for the agriculture, forestry and fisheries working groups.

The Chairs will consult together and with Ministers regularly to ensure that questions raised in the commentaries as well as those signalled in the discussion paper are fully and consistently integrated into the work of the sectoral working groups.

The Chairs are also being asked to ensure that interested groups and individuals who are not represented on the working groups have the opportunity to bring information and views to the attention of the working groups. Other members of the groups will assist in this broader consultation.

The experience, training and qualifications of the three chairpersons makes them eminently qualified for their task.

Stuart Harris is currently Professor, Department of International Relations in the Research School of Pacific Studies at the Australian National University. He has an extensive research background and has held important posts in academic institutions and the public service. Professor Harris was previously Director of the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies at the Australian National University, and Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

David Throsby is Professor of Economics at Macquarie University. He has wide experience as a resource economist and has acted as a consultant to a number of major international organisations, including the FAO, UNESCO, the World Bank, and many State, Federal Government and private sector agencies.

Roy Green has been Director of the CSIRO Institute of Natural Resources and Environment since January 1988. Prior to that he has had wide experience in industry and government. Previous major appointments have included Secretary to the Australian Science and Technology Council, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Science and Executive Adviser in the Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce.

Copies of the Commonwealth discussion paper, *Ecologically Sustainable Development*, can be obtained from Australian Government Publishing Service (AGPS) bookshops in each capital city. Any further comments on the discussion paper will be forwarded to the Chairs for their consideration.

A related Treasury paper, *Economic and Regulatory Measures for Ecologically Sustainable Development*, was published in the Economic Round-up of June 1990 and can be obtained from AGPS bookshops.