



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

5 JUNE 1991

Heads of Government have agreed that the next special Premiers' Conference will be held on 30 July 1991 in Sydney.

The Conference was originally scheduled to be held in May, but was deferred at the request of the Premier of New South Wales because of the election in that State. July 30 was the only date that could be agreed by all Premiers.

Unfortunately, I will not, therefore, be able to attend the 22nd South Pacific Forum to be held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on July 28-30. Senator Evans, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, will represent me at the Forum.

The series of special Premiers' Conferences, which I proposed in my speech to the National Press Club on 19 July 1990, represents a major initiative to promote a close partnership between the Commonwealth, States and Local Government.

The first Conference, held in Brisbane on 30-31 October 1990, set in train review processes involving a wide range of intergovernmental issues. The July Conference will be the opportunity for Heads of Government to receive the initial reports of these reviews.

Important issues will be addressed in the areas of regulatory reform, road and rail transport and the interstate electricity network in South Eastern Australia.

Heads of Government will also assess progress and guide further work in areas such as the review of Commonwealth-State financial arrangements where reports on options for reform are to be provided to the third special Premiers' Conference scheduled for November.

The issues being considered in this process are wide ranging and of major importance for the future of Australia. They include:

- . the need to develop a more integrated domestic market for Australian industry with a better coordinated regulatory framework and more efficient transport links to improve efficiency and international competitiveness; and

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. the need for better integrated service delivery in the public sector to enable it to deliver better services to clients.

I have written to Forum leaders advising them of my regret at being unable to attend the Forum.