



PRIME MINISTER

64/92

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP

RELEASE OF DRAFT NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GREENHOUSE RESPONSE

The Prime Minister released today draft National Strategies for Ecologically Sustainable Development and Greenhouse Response.

These companion documents are designed to promote discussion and debate in the Australian community.

Given the complexity of the issues, the Government believes that public discussion and response will be essential in helping all Australian governments determine their final policy directions.

Without public involvement and commitment, government efforts to achieve ecologically sustainable development (ESD) and to respond to the possibility of an enhanced greenhouse effect will face serious difficulty.

Public comment on the draft strategies will be accepted until August 21.

Officials will be holding a national round table meeting of key interest groups in September, while members of the original ESD working groups and nationally based organisations will be invited to community consultation forums in August.

The outcome of these meetings will be a key element in the setting of final directions taken in the strategies.

In May 1992, Commonwealth, State and Territory Heads of Government noted progress on development of an intergovernmental response, in the form of national strategies on ESD and greenhouse, to the reports of the nine ESD Working Groups and two ESD Chairs. They agreed that in light of the range and complexity of the issues addressed, and in order to provide adequate opportunity for effective public consultation, the draft strategies should be released at the end of June as officials' discussion papers. Heads of Government also requested

officials to bring forward proposals for the definitive strategies by the end of October.

The Prime Minister encouraged interested groups and individuals to participate actively in the public consultation process. It is hoped the community will take this opportunity of open discussion with government officials and other interest groups on the proposed actions and initiatives outlined in the strategies.

A broad range of measures for achieving ESD and responding to the greenhouse effect are recommended in the draft strategies.

The Prime Minister noted that the ESD Working Group process has already had a significant impact on government policies and processes. A large number of initiatives have already been developed and put in place by all levels of governments, and in a wide variety of agencies, to help move Australia towards an ecologically sustainable future. Together, the draft strategies outline a number of the actions that governments have taken in response to the ESD Working Group Reports.

All levels of government will be involved in finalising the strategies for Heads of Government agreement of specific actions and initiatives by November.

Copies of the draft strategies are being widely distributed to libraries and peak interest groups. They can also be obtained free of charge by contacting one of the nominated agencies in each State or Territory. Contact addresses for these agencies are attached.

CANBERRA

30 June 1992

**CONTACT LIST FOR DRAFT NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE
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