



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P. J. KEATING, M.P.

PRIME MINISTER'S RURAL & REGIONAL TASK FORCE

I am pleased to announce that the Rural and Regional Taskforce headed by the Member for Page, Mr Harry Woods, is to prepare a report in to the Remote Air Services Subsidy (RASS) Scheme.

The scheme presently services many remote communities in far North Queensland, the Northern Territory and parts of South and Western Australia.

The Rural and Regional Taskforce will report to the Government on the impact of the scheme on those local communities.

The Taskforce will meet major users of the scheme in Darwin and Cairns in the week beginning April 11th, and will also meet representatives of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association and representatives from Aboriginal communities. They will also discuss the scheme with members of some of the outlying communities which RASS helps to service.

For further information: Mr Harry Woods MP (066) 426 356

CANBERRA
31 March, 1994