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STATEMENT BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER, THE HON BRIAN HOWE MP
LAND MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

11/12/87

In November the Prime Minister announced the Government's intention to establish a Land Management Task Force to investigate ways to improve the adoption and use of property management plans for the farm sector. Today I announce the membership of that Task Force.

The Task Force will comprise representatives from the farm sector, the financial institutions, experts in the areas of Landcare and farm management and from State and Federal Governments.

I am pleased that the Government has been able to draw together people with a wide range of experience and expertise to serve on the Task Force.

The Task Force will report directly to the Prime Minister and will be chaired by his Senior Economic Adviser, Dr Ric Simes. The full membership is set out below.

The Commonwealth considers the increased use of property management planning will achieve greater integration of economic, ecological and regional decision making by the farm sector.

The terms of reference for the Task Force are:

1. Examine the extent of property management planning and implementation and identify options for improving adoption;
2. Investigate the scope of property management planning to advance sustainable production in Australian farming;
3. Identify means by which property management planning can assist in the development of farm business strategies and operations;
4. Examine the scope for increased linkages between property management planning and catchment based or regional plans;
5. Review the relationship between property management planning and the provision of government programs and advise on options for further integration where appropriate;

6. Examine the scope for financial institutions to incorporate property management planning in assessments of long term farm viability and lending practices.

Task Force membership:

Dr Ric Simes, Senior Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister,

Mr Jock Douglas, a Queensland farmer and Chairperson of the Queensland Landcare Council,

Mr Alex Campbell a Western Australian farmer and Convenor of the National Farmers Federation's Conservation Sub-Committee,

Mr Chris Shearer, National Australia Bank,

Mr Barry Buffier, Westpac Bank,

Mr Max Ormsby, General Manager, Financial Services, Elders,

Mr Noel Dawson, Executive Director of Land Use and Fisheries, Queensland Department of Primary Industries,

Mr Peter Sutherland, Acting General Manager, Rural Policy and Marketing, Victorian Department of Agriculture,

Ms Helen Alexander, National Landcare Facilitator,

Mr Noel Fitzpatrick, immediate past President of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission,

Mr Peter Huthwaite, President of the Australian Farm Management Society and the Director of the Rural Management Development Centre at the Queensland Institute of Technology,

Ms Sue Salmon, Consultant to the Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories, Senator John Faulkner,

Mr Bernie Wonder, First Assistant Secretary Rural Division, Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy.

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CANBERRA
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