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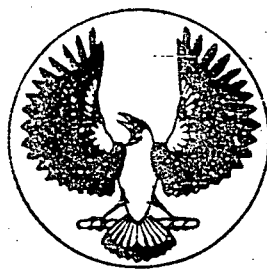
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**Title:**

Statement: New Department of Economic Development to be established

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# STATEMENT

from the Premier

Date..... December 9, 1976

Embargo..... 12 midnight

State Administration Centre,  
Victoria Square, Adelaide,  
South Australia 5001  
228 4811

## NEW DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO BE ESTABLISHED

A new Department of Economic Development is to be established in South Australia, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan announced today.

The Department will have the overall responsibility of assisting industrial growth and diversification within South Australia and also the co-ordination of the resources of the State's major financial institutions.

The Department of Economic Development will be responsible to the Premier and will include the Trade and Development Division and the Economic Intelligence Unit now in the Premier's Department. The Economic Intelligence Unit will be renamed the Economic Division. A new Overseas Trade Division will be established to co-ordinate and service South Australia's overseas trade efforts.

The head of the new department will be the Director General of the Premier's Department, Mr. R.D. Bakewell, who will take up his new appointment in January.

Mr. Dunstan said the establishment of the Department of Economic Development was a particularly important step for South Australia.

"Economic management and planning are vital to the future prosperity of our State. The Government is concerned to ensure that the State's need to diversify its industrial capacity to create job opportunities and steady growth is realised through the most efficient and rational use of the total resources of the State.

"The Department will provide those vital economic forecasting and co-ordinating services both to the Government and to industry.

"It will work very closely with industry to attract new companies and organisations to our State and will also work to ensure that the range of Government activities is understood by, and suited to, industry and commerce.

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"As well, the Department of Economic Development will work with industry and trade unions to assess the impact of Federal Government economic management policies and will seek to ensure that Federal Government policies do not interfere with or harm present or future industry in our State.

"Mr. Bakewell will retain his positions on the Boards of the State Bank, The Savings Bank of South Australia, The South Australian Government Insurance Commission and the companies which are carrying out the South Australian Government's activities in Malaysia.

"In his new position Mr. Bakewell will continue to be a very significant advisor to me and to the Government. As permanent head of the Premier's Department he has worked very hard and very successfully particularly in areas relating to financial and economic matters.

"He is a widely respected and extremely energetic and innovative administrator but the workload of being both head of the Premier's Department and of developing and carrying out Government policies to strengthen South Australia's economic base is too great for any one permanent head.

"Twelve months ago I said that Mr. Bakewell would be relinquishing his position as Permanent Head of my Department to concentrate full time on these matters and, since then, the Government has decided that the economic development of the State required a separate, compact, but highly professional department.

"One of the major concerns of the Department will be to increase our overseas trade to provide new markets for South Australian companies and, from these new markets, stability of employment in our own State. Our ventures in Malaysia and Libya are going exceptionally well and we have very good prospects in Algeria.

"In fact, our unique relationships with Malaysia and their obvious benefits both to our State and to Malaysia have now been recognised by the Commonwealth Secretariat in London which has asked Mr. Bakewell to be a member of the Commonwealth Team of Industrial Specialists which devises and recommends practical measures for industrial co-operation between Commonwealth countries.

"Mr. Bakewell's expertise and ability are so highly regarded by the Commonwealth Secretariat that it has told the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs that Mr. Bakewell's special experience in the South Australian Government's joint ventures with Malaysia will prove particularly valuable to the work of the Team.

"This is international recognition of the importance and success of the policies which South Australia has pioneered for the mutual benefit of our State and a developing region. As a State we have lead the way and are far ahead of anyone else in Australia in developing joint ventures to create new markets for our industries.

"Mr. Bakewell's position as Permanent Head of the Department of Economic Development will allow him time to work with the Commonwealth Team of Industrial Specialists.

"This new Department is an exciting challenge which will ensure that future planning for South Australia's economic development will be worked out in close consultation with business, trade unions and Government. I am very pleased that businessmen and industrialists in South Australia have welcomed our new move".