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Title:
Press statement - New Conservation Ministry

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PRESS STATEMENT FROM THE PREMIER FOR ALL METROPOLITAN PAPERS AND
THE A.B.C. TO BE ISSUED AFTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THURSDAY,
18TH FEBRUARY, 1971.

SUBJECT: NEW CONSERVATION MINISTRY.

*- re - released
22.2.71*

The Premier, Mr. Dunstan, today announced what areas of Government had been transferred to the Minister for Conservation, Mr. G.R. Broomhill. Mr. Broomhill was appointed Minister in charge of that new portfolio in November last year, with the dual role of Minister assisting the Premier.

Mr. Dunstan said today that one of the major decisions made about Mr. Broomhill's responsibilities was the committal to him of the State Planning and Development Act. This had gone to Mr. Broomhill in his capacity as Minister assisting the Premier. This transfer - the State Planning Authority previously came under the Minister of Local Government - had been agreed on as the most convenient administrative method of giving the Minister for Conservation a source of power which he could draw upon to get action over a wide field. It was clear that the question of conservation could not be tackled properly without adequate planning. The present Planning Act provided the Minister with considerable powers in relation to the control of the environment.

The Conservation Minister, Mr. Dunstan went on, now administers the National Parks Commission. He also deals with fauna conservation and wildlife coming under the Acts relating to this field. The Aboriginal and Historic Relics Preservation Act and the Foreshore Beaches Committee were now also included in the Conservation portfolio.

Mr. Dunstan said that Mr. Broomhill had working with him the Committee on Environment in South Australia which had already provided several valuable interim reports. The final report of this Committee should be available later this year. The Government was considering the future role of the Environment Committee after its final report had been presented. It might be most valuable as a link between the Conservation Minister and other Ministries which

encountered conservation type problems.

The Premier said that certain of his functions as Minister of Mines would go to Mr. Broomhill in his capacity as Minister assisting the Premier. The question of the role of the Minister for Conservation in relation to the National Pleasure Resorts Act and the Museum Act and other legislation dealing with conservation, were still being considered. A recommendation had been sought from the Public Service Board suggesting whether these responsibilities should be fitted in-to the structure of the new department.

Mr. Dunstan said finally that the Minister for Conservation would be encouraged to recommend action in other Departments not under his control if he felt such action warranted.