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**Title:**

Joint statement by the Premier and Mr MD Bridgland representing the Redcliff  
Petrochemical Consortium

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JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, AND MR. M.D. BRIDGLAND,  
REPRESENTING THE REDCLIFF PETROCHEMICAL CONSORTIUM.

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As part of a regular review of the Redcliff Petrochemical Project the Premier met today with representatives of the Consortium. Also present were the Minister of Development and Mines, the Minister of Environment and Conservation, senior advisers and an officer of the Federal Department of Minerals and Energy.

The Premier was advised that because of delays in the project it is now forecast that the petrochemical complex, as presently proposed, cannot be commissioned before 1980.

Matters which have not yet been resolved include the terms and supply of Cooper Basin natural gas and feedstock, the basis for financing infrastructure for the project, confirmation of markets considering the estimated costs of production, and clarification of outstanding environmental questions. These points will be reviewed during the next few months.

For these reasons and their possible effect on the form of the project the Indenture is not expected to be completed as earlier proposed for its introduction into the next session of the Parliament.

For the same reasons the completion of a draft Environmental Impact Statement will be delayed. A reassurance was given, however, that no commitment to proceed would be given before environmental implications of any project were clearly assessed.

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