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# Border Morning Mail

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ALBURY-WODONGA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1972

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## BYRNE OPENS BORDER'S BIG PUSH

### 'Make reality'

A study of the development potential of Albury-Wodonga would be undertaken immediately, the Victorian Minister for State Development, Mr Byrne, announced yesterday.

Mr Byrne was speaking after the annual conference of the five development committees of Victoria held in Wodonga.

Delegates from Ballarat, Bendigo, the Latrobe Valley, Portland and Wodonga took part in the conference.

Mr Byrne announced the feasibility study after earlier talks with Wodonga shire president, Cr Les Stone, and the Mayor of Albury, Ald. Tom Pearsall.

Both civic leaders later welcomed the announcement.

Mr Byrne said he would seek the co-operation of Albury and Wodonga councils, the Commonwealth Government and the NSW Government in the study.

He said it would aim at making the Albury-Wodonga complex a reality.

Mr Byrne said he was grateful that Australians were becoming mature enough not to be restricted by State boundaries.

#### 'Border doesn't mean much'

"The border doesn't mean much to me," he said.

Mr Byrne said he would employ outside specialists in the feasibility study.

"I am hoping to get a report as to how Victoria can implement the development of the whole of this area.

"Recommendations as to the nature of legislation will have to be introduced.

"Recommendations as to what statutory bodies will have to be set up will also have to be introduced.

"I am satisfied that with Commonwealth and State assistance, we can achieve in Albury-Wodonga a major decentralisation project within our lifetime," Mr Byrne said.

"And it will be for the benefit of people not only in this area, but all over the nation.

"We must start to think big and I congratulate the municipalities of Wodonga

● Continued on P. 2

● Byrne supports phone rebates—P. 2



● CR STONE . . .

"We must think big and we're big thinkers. We'll play our part."



● ALD PEARSALL

... "Mr Hamer and his Government are to be congratulated for their immediate and decisive approach."



● The Victorian Minister for State Development and Decentralisation, Mr Byrne, addresses yesterday's conference. Delegates from all five centres selected for special growth attended.

# Byrne backs industry phone bonus



● Wodonga Shire president, Cr Stone, left, welcomes delegates to yesterday's conference. They are, from left, Mr Les. McDonald of the NSW Department of Decentralisation and Development, and the Bendigo Development Committee delegates, Mr J. M. Cohn and Mr N. Healey.

## STUDY OF POTENTIAL OPENS BORDER 'PUSH'

● Continued from Page 1

and Albury, and the people living in this locality for giving us the lead."

Mr Byrne said the Government would underwrite the cost of the study and would act on the advice of the Wodonga Shire president and the Mayor of Albury to appoint experts.

"I am relying on the advice of the local people," Mr Byrne said.

Cr Stone, said the councils of the Shire of Wodonga and the City of Albury had been working

to the end outlined by Mr Byrne for the past three or four years.

"I agree with the Minister that we must think big."

"I can only say that we are big thinkers in this area."

"I can assure the Minister that we will play our part in this planning stage," Cr Stone said.

Ald Pearsall said: "Mr Byrne's statements are a breath of fresh air."

"We know big thinking is needed to achieve a reasonably quick result."

"Planning was discussed by the Minister, Cr Stone, and myself and it is evident that this is the No. 1 requirement and that Mr Byrne is ready and willing to get this under way."

"We hope fruitful discussions will take place between Mr Byrne and the NSW Minister, Mr Fuller, for both councils to be able to play a major role in this development."

"Finance must have to be forthcoming from the States and Commonwealth Government in the form of grants and subsidies for major services such as water, sewerage, and new airport facilities."

"Today's thinking is consistent with Mr Hamer's undertaking

## Albury to get musical

The most successful musical of all time, "The Sound of Music," will be presented in Albury next year.

The artistic director of the Albury Music Group, Mr Neil Case, announced yesterday that the group had secured the performing rights of the show for Albury and district.

Mr Case said the group

A move to give decentralised industries 100 per cent. rebate on their telephone accounts received the full support of the Minister for State Development, Mr Byrne, yesterday.

The annual conference of the five development committees of Victoria, held in Wodonga yesterday, also decided to urge the Housing Commission to build ahead of demand in large country centres.

Mr Byrne told delegates from the five centres the next two years would see a mass movement of large industry from the city to the country.

"You can put your money on the advancement of this area of Victoria," he said.

Wodonga Development Committee successfully moved that a call be made for special Government financial help for sewerage and water services to municipal authorities to decentralise industries.

Moving the request, Wodonga Shire president, Cr Stone, said loan money available at present was totally inadequate to cope with the growing demands of Wodonga.

Mr Byrne sat through the entire conference. He gave advice and opinions on matters which came before the conference.

## Conference decisions

Delegates decided to:

- Urge the introduction of a rebate of 100 per cent. on telephone charges incurred by decentralised industries.

Mr Byrne said there were no legal or constitutional complications in introducing such a rebate system.

"You could ask for 150 per cent. rebate. The Government gives it to the fishing industry," Mr Byrne said.

• Urge the Government to give company and income tax rebates to approved decentralised industries.

Mr Byrne said a company tax rebate would give a tremendous boost to potential and existing industry in country

Mr Byrne said the principal of the motion was sound.

## Gas for all Victoria

He said his Government intended to extend natural gas supplies throughout Victoria.

But he said there might be some difficulty in taking natural gas supplies out of Victoria.

"We have 25 years' reserves. We must protect our supply."

"We will only take natural gas to areas where we can be sure it will be used in a big way."

• Oppose the creation of satellite cities close to the metropolitan area.

• Encourage a free-flowing movement from city to the country by informing city people of the advantage of country life.

• Instigate an annual award for achievement in industrialisation for approved decentralised industries.

Mr Byrne said he would work to make this award a reality this year.

## Move for more homes

• Urge the Housing Commission to build houses ahead of demand.

The Bendigo delegation said 15 to 20 homes should be available at all times.

They said the know-



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