

FLOODS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. R.G. Menzies

I deeply regret to learn of the disastrous floods in New South Wales and of the great personal hardship which has fallen on so many people in consequence of the floods. I extend my warm sympathy to those who are suffering.

I have received a telegram this afternoon from the Premier of New South Wales, Mr. Heffron, to whom I have replied as follows :

"Reference your telegram flood conditions in many rivers your State on behalf of Commonwealth I wish to express our sincere regret at damage occasioned by these floods and deep sympathy for all who have suffered stop

Commonwealth is prepared to join your Government in financing relief scheme stop In accordance with your request a Commonwealth Grant of up to £30,000 has been approved on a pound for pound basis with your State subject to usual conditions namely that joint funds will be used only for relief of personal hardship and that expenditure will be certified by Auditor-General in due course".

CANBERRA,

20th November, 1961.