



FOR PRESS :

P.M. No. 53/1967.

QUEENSLAND FLOODS - COMMONWEALTH
ASSISTANCE

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Holt

In a statement on 29th March, 1967, my colleague the Right Honourable John McEwen, as Acting Prime Minister, said that the Premier of Queensland had requested assistance in respect of flood damage in north Queensland, and that the Premier had been informed that the Commonwealth would participate with the State on the customary dollar for dollar basis for the relief of personal hardship.

Mr. McEwen added that when the Queensland Government had forwarded an assessment of damage done to other assets, the Commonwealth would give prompt consideration to the question of assistance to the State to help in financing the restoration of those assets.

Since then the Premier of Queensland has provided an assessment of the financial assistance needed for the relief of personal hardship and distress, and for the restoration of government and municipal property damaged by the floods. These are the areas in which the Commonwealth has been prepared to assist with relief in disasters of this order.

The Queensland authorities assessed the amount required for the relief of personal hardship at \$1,250,000 and the Commonwealth has advanced \$625,000 as its estimated share of this relief.

With regard to Government and Local Authority property damaged by the floods, the Premier estimated that the cost of restoration would be about \$1.5.m. The Commonwealth's policy is to assist the State concerned, on a dollar for dollar basis, in the restoration of such assets where the cost involved would be an undue burden on the State's financial resources and I have informed the Premier that the Commonwealth is prepared to give assistance on this basis in addition to the financial help it has given for the relief of personal hardship.

CANBERRA
25TH MAY, 1967.