



**PRIME MINISTER**

14 June 1974  
Press Statement No. 271

Urban Public Transport

The Australian Government has successfully completed negotiations for a \$73 million program for a major improvement in urban public transport in the six capital cities.

All States have now signed the Urban Public Transport Assistance Agreement in which the Australian Government will provide two-thirds of the cost of urban transport projects in the capitals.

Under the agreement the following non-repayable grants will be made to the States over a 5 year period:

New South Wales	\$28.57 million
Victoria	\$18.59 million
Queensland	\$12.30 million
South Australia	\$ 9.77 million
Western Australia	\$ 1.89 million
Tasmania	\$790,000

In addition, the Australian Government will provide \$3 million for research and planning.

While the \$73 million earmarked for the program will be spent in the capital cities, provision is also contained in the agreement to extend its scope to major provincial cities such as Newcastle, Wollongong and Geelong.

Projects to be undertaken under the new agreement, and the Australian Government grants to be given for them, include:

NEW SOUTH WALES

New electric double-deck cars for the suburban system	\$30.5 million
Signalling improvements in the Sydney station area	\$ 3.0 million
Signalling improvements in the Strathfield area	\$ 2.85 million
Work towards the quadruplication of railway line between Granville and Penrith	\$ 8.89 million

Improvements to interiors of busses and trains	\$ 680,000
Modernisation of railway electricity sub-stations	\$970,000

VICTORIA

2 additional tracks and associated works for the South Kensington-Footscray railway route	\$ 3.07 million
A 3rd track and additional platform at intermediate stations on the Caulfield-Mordialloc line	\$ 4.07 million
Additional track and 2 additional stations on the Sunshine-Deer Park West line	\$1.27 million
2nd track and platform alteration on the Macleod-Greensborough line	\$810,000
Signalling improvements for railway system	\$ 3.66 million

QUEENSLAND

Cross river rail link to Roma Street station	\$ 5.58 million
Electrification of the suburban railway line from Darra to Ferny Grove	\$ 5.34 million
Additional trackage for northern corridor, Roma Street station to Northgate	\$ 1.41 million

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Christie Downs railway extension - including additional track from Brighton to Port Stanvac - to be electrified	\$ 8.00 million
Glenelg tram route upgrading	\$530,000
New buses	\$870,000

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Pedestrian access bridge to Central Bus Station	\$630,000
Bus access road from Fitzgerald Street to Central Bus Station	\$160,000
New buses	\$900,000

TASMANIA

New buses	\$670,000
Ticket issuing machines	\$100,000

I am delighted that the States have finally seen their way clear to accept this major initiative by the Australian Government.

The Australian Government has already allocated almost \$73 million for projects that were scheduled to commence during the current financial year. We had intended to spend \$32 million during this year but because of delays caused not only in settling the agreement, but also because of the recent interruption to the Parliamentary machinery the expenditure will not be anything like that. This means that Urban travellers will be forced to wait longer before they start to enjoy the benefits flowing from our program.

Projects already in the program include new rolling stock for rail, bus and tram services, the provision of additional rail trackage where necessary, the creation of exclusive bus rights of way in certain cities and a number of other projects which will improve the comfort and convenience of our public transport systems.

The final step necessary to get this program under way is the ratification of the Agreement by the Australian Parliament. The bill to achieve this final step had been introduced in the previous Parliament but was not passed before Parliament was dissolved. I am determined to reduce any further delays to the minimum and will ensure that the necessary legislation obtains priority in the early sitting of the current Parliament.

We are closely watching our commitments in the immediate future to ensure that they can be met during the current economic climate. At the recent Premiers' Conference I stated that we proposed to press on with the Urban Public Transport Program we have initiated. As the Treasurer stated in his Budget speech last year, our outlays in this field will increase rapidly in 1974/75 and beyond.

We are fulfilling our commitment to improve a neglected part of our cities, a part which must be improved if the cities are to be attractive places in which to live and work. I expect that the benefits will be flowing to the regular traveller in the near future as some of the less costly projects that are extremely attractive are introduced into the transport system.

---