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Mr. Nicholson  
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# PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

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## VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES

### JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE ACTING PREMIER OF VICTORIA

The Prime Minister and the Acting Premier, Mr Thompson, indicated that their Governments had agreed on a number of measures designed to assist those harmed in the Victorian bushfires.

The Prime Minister and Acting Premier indicated that in addition to the core measures the Commonwealth and State Government would assist towards the cost of replacing damaged fencing, abutting, roads, railways, and water frontages and game reserves on the same basis as was provided in the 1977 bushfires in Western Victoria.

Assistance will also be provided towards the cost of replacing residential housing on the same basis as was done in 1977. The Commonwealth has agreed to the 50 percent subsidy being paid towards the cost of transporting saleable stock to local meatworks.

The two Governments have also agreed concessional loans could be available for the reestablishment of camp installations.

These measures are in addition to the normal core measures which are a standard part of the national disaster arrangements agreed to between the States and the Commonwealth. They have been developed as a result of experience with the fires in Western Victoria of 1977.

The Prime Minister and Acting Premier indicated that the disaster organisation had been working well and with great credit to everyone involved.

They paid a special tribute to the outstanding work of the voluntary firefighters of the Country Fire Authority, without whose efforts the damage, disaster and hardship would have been so much greater,