



PRIME MINISTER

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NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES PROGRAMME

The Prime Minister has written to State Premiers inviting them to nominate projects for consideration under the five year national water resources programme.

The Commonwealth government is to contribute \$200 million during this period and is seeking the Premiers' agreement to contribute equally with the Commonwealth in the programme in their States.

The Government's intention to introduce this programme was announced before the recent election.

The programme will encompass the provision of funds to the States, in grants and/or loans, for programmes, projects or activities for:

1. water supplies for urban and rural areas, including re-use;
2. flood mitigation, land drainage and floodplain management proposals;
3. proposals to deal with problems which represent a serious threat to the long-term use of existing water resources, with emphasis on water quality management, particularly salinity control;
4. water resources assessment and research; and
5. planning and management investigations of broad regional scope.

Projects eligible for consideration under the programme include water conservation and supply, flood mitigation, water quality management, resources assessment and research.

The programme will reflect merits of proposals and State priorities and will apply to both city and country projects.

It is anticipated that the Commonwealth will begin considering proposals from the States before the presentation of the next Budget so that the programme can commence in 1978/79.