



5

**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR PRESS

14 FEBRUARY 1979

A.C.T./N.S.W. BUSHFIRES

The Prime Minister, Mr. Fraser, has asked the Minister for the Capital Territory, Mr. Ellicott and the Premier of New South Wales to convey his deepest sympathy to those affected by the fires.

Mr. Fraser also extended his best wishes to the fire fighters still in the field and expressed the hope that the situation would soon be under control.

The Commonwealth will immediately join with N.S.W. on a \$1 for \$1 basis in meeting expenditure for the relief of personal hardship and distress, Mr. Fraser said, and the Commonwealth will provide the same assistance to residents of the A.C.T. affected by the fires.

Needless to say, the Prime Minister added, the Commonwealth stands ready to assist with men and equipment.

Further proposals for relief measures will receive prompt attention.