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BEEF ROADS

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. R.G. Menzies

In his recent Budget speech, Mr. Holt, in dealing with the matter of Roads for the cattle industry, indicated some particular provisions totalling £1,000,000 in respect of Queensland and the Northern Territory. He then said:-

"The provision of £1,000,000 is by no means, however, the limit of the expenditure we have in view. Subject to agreement being reached with the Governments of Queensland and Western Australia, we are willing, and indeed we intend, to provide additional funds for roads in these two States."

After the completion of our Railways negotiations with Mr. Brand, Mr. Court, and Western Australian officials, we took up the question of beef roads.

The Commonwealth has, in consequence, made an agreement that, matching corresponding provisions by Western Australia in relation to roads in the Kimberleys, it will find £500,000 for the improvement of the Wyndham-Nicholson road, the Wyndham-Turkey Creek-Hall's Creek road, and necessary bridges over the Bandicoot Bar and the Dunham River.

These works are calculated to increase the offturn in good condition of beef cattle, primarily for export.

CANBERRA,

27th August, 1961.