

P.M. No. 24/1962

LOAN COUNCIL

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

The Commonwealth, after discussion with the Premiers, has amended its proposals to provide that the amount it would advance to the States for housing construction in 1961-62 should be increased by £7 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. instead of £5m.

In place of the earlier proposal that total borrowings of semi-government and local authorities for 1961-62 should be increased by £10m. it now proposed an increase of £7 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. in the programmes of authorities intending to borrow more than £100,000. during the year. At the same time it suggested that smaller authorities with programmes less than £100,000 should be permitted to borrow as much during the remainder of the year as they found themselves able to do.

The Commonwealth proposal for the distribution of the £10m. non-repayable grant remains unchanged.

CANBERRA,

15th February, 1962.