

FOR PRESS :

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PREMIERS' CONFERENCE - MARCH, 1964

COMMONWEALTH AID ROADS 1964/65 -1968/69

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies

It is proposed that the new Commonwealth Aid Roads legislation will provide as follows :-

- (1) a period of five years from 1st July, 1964;
- (2) subject to matching contributions by State Governments in respect of that portion of the grant known as the additional grant, the Commonwealth will make available to the States over a five year period a total sum of £375,000,000 for the construction, reconstruction and maintenance of roads;
- (3) the basic grant payable to the States by the Commonwealth will total £330,000,000 distributed over the five years as follows :-

	£
1964-65	62,000,000
1965-66	64,000,000
1966-67	66,000,000
1967-68	68,000,000
1968-69	70,000,000

- (4) in addition to these basic grants of £330,000,000, the Commonwealth will make available to the States further sums totalling £45,000,000 on the basis of £1 for every £1 allocated by the State Governments from their own resources for expenditure on roads over and above certain base amounts. These are the amounts required to be allocated by States for roads expenditure in order to qualify under the present legislation for the additional grant in 1963-64. The amount of such additional grants by the Commonwealth will be subject to annual limits as follows :-

	£
1964-65	3,000,000
1965-66	6,000,000
1966-67	9,000,000
1967-68	12,000,000
1968-69	15,000,000

- (5) the State Governments will be required to ensure, as at present, that not less than 40 per cent. of funds made available by the Commonwealth will be spent on roads in rural areas, other than highways, main roads and trunk roads;

- (6) there will be no special allocation of Commonwealth funds for expenditure in metropolitan areas. But the State Governments will be free to allocate any part of Commonwealth Aid Road grants other than the proportion reserved for rural roads for expenditure in municipal or local authority areas which includes metropolitan areas;
- (7) the amounts made available by the Commonwealth will be distributed, as at present, between States in the proportions of 5 per cent. of the total for Tasmania, and the balance between the other five States on the basis of 1/3 according to population, 1/3 according to area, and 1/3 according to motor vehicles registered;
- (8) the provision in the present legislation permitting the States to spend up to £1,000,000 of the amount made available by the Commonwealth each year on works other than road works connected with transport by road or water will be renewed.
- (9) the provision in the existing legislation permitting the States to make payments for or in connection with research relating to the construction, maintenance or repair of roads will be continued and will be extended to include research relating also to planning and design of roads.

CANBERRA,

12th March, 1964.

PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS UNDER THE NEW COMMONWEALTH AID ROADS LEGISLATION (a)
1964-1965 TO 1968-69

	1964-65			1965-66			1966-67			1967-68			1968-69			Total Five Years				
	Basic	Addit- ional	Total	Basic	Addit- ional	Total	Basic	Addit- ional	Total	Basic	Addit- ional	Total	Basic	Addit- ional	Total	Basic	Addit- ional	Total	Percent	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
N.S.W.	17,341	839	18,180	17,901	1,678	19,579	18,460	2,518	20,978	19,020	3,356	22,376	19,579	4,196	23,775	92,301	12,587	104,888	27.97	
VIC	12,292	590	12,792	12,595	1,181	13,776	12,989	1,771	14,760	13,382	2,362	15,744	13,776	2,952	16,728	64,944	8,856	73,800	19.68	
Q'LD	11,259	545	11,804	11,622	1,090	12,712	11,986	1,634	13,620	12,349	2,179	14,528	12,712	2,724	15,436	59,928	8,172	68,100	18.16	
S.A.	7,130	345	7,475	7,360	690	8,050	7,590	1,035	8,625	7,820	1,380	9,200	8,050	1,725	9,775	37,950	5,175	43,125	11.50	
W.A.	10,963	531	11,499	11,322	1,061	12,383	11,675	1,592	13,267	12,029	2,123	14,152	12,383	2,653	15,036	58,377	7,960	66,337	17.69	
TAS.	3,100	150	3,250	3,200	300	3,500	3,300	450	3,750	3,400	600	4,000	3,500	750	4,250	16,500	2,250	18,750	5.00	
TOTAL	62,000	3,000	65,000	64,000	6,000	70,000	66,000	9,000	75,000	68,000	12,000	80,000	70,000	15,000	85,000	330,000	45,000	375,000	100.00	

(a) Assumes the grants will be distributed to the States in each year in the proportions of 5 per cent of the total for Tasmania and the balance between the other five States on the basis of one-third area, one-third population as at 30th June, 1961 and one-third motor vehicles on register as at end December, 1962 as published in the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics' Preliminary Statement No. 5: Census of Motor Vehicles, 31st December, 1962. It is also assumed that each State will allocate for roads in each year an amount at least sufficient to qualify in full for the additional grant