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NEW SOUTH WALES BUSHFIRES

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

I wish to express on behalf of myself and the Commonwealth Government sincerest sympathy to those who have suffered in the New South Wales bushfires.

We have already announced our preparedness to contribute \$50, 000 on a dollar for dollar basis with New South Wales for the relief of personal hardship and distress suffered by those people affected by the fires.

But the Premier of New South Wales has now told me that his Government has extended its bushfire relief scheme to cover the whole of New South Wales. I have assured him that the Commonwealth Government will extend its previous offer and will match State contributions to the scheme for relief of personal hardship and distress resulting from the fires throughout the State.

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CANBERRA  
25 November 1968