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DROUGHT RELIEF FOR QUEENSLAND

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton

In view of the recurrence of drought conditions over a large area of Queensland, the Commonwealth is prepared to participate with the State, on a \$ for \$ basis, in the provision of finance for drought relief measures.

These measures will include:-

- * Rail and road subsidies on the transport of fodder and the movement of livestock to agistment;
- * Carry-on finance for drought affected farmers who are unable to obtain credit from normal commercial sources;
- * Grants to local authorities in rural areas to relieve unemployment caused by drought.

Details of the arrangements will be determined in the course of Commonwealth-State discussions to be held later this week.

Background:

The Commonwealth has already provided approximately \$15½ million to Queensland since 1965-66 as re-imbusement to that State for drought relief expenditure. . . . and has also given additional amounts totalling approximately \$5 million for special revenue assistance to offset the effects of drought on the State's Revenue.

CANBERRA
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