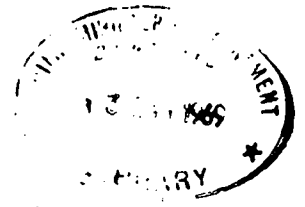


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DROUGHT RELIEF FOR QUEENSLAND

The Prime Minister, Mr. John Gorton, referred today to the extra measures of drought relief assistance which he had agreed to make available to the Queensland Government in a letter to the Premier on 29 July.

He recalled that in 1968-69 the Commonwealth gave approximately \$2 million to Queensland on a dollar-for-dollar sharing arrangement between the Commonwealth and the State.

Mr. Gorton has now told the Queensland Government that in 1969-70 - the present financial year - the Commonwealth is prepared to give \$2 million on the same sharing basis, and in addition will give the whole of any agreed relief expenditure which the State may incur in excess of \$4 million. This excess expenditure is tentatively estimated to be approximately \$6 million.

The result is that as compared with a grant of \$2 million last year the Commonwealth stands ready to provide an estimated \$8 million this year.

CANBERRA
5 August 1969