



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS:

PM No 18/1972

FIRST ADVANCE ON WHEAT

Statement by the Prime Minister, Mr William McMahon, C.H., M.P.

The Government is prepared to arrange the provision of finance under the usual government guarantee to the Reserve Bank to enable the Australian Wheat Board to pay a first advance at the rate of \$1.10 per bushel less freight on deliveries of wheat to the Board up to 407 million bushels in the 1972/73 season.

This is the level of quota deliveries recommended by the Australian Wheat Growers' Federation and it has been accepted by the Government on the understanding that if sales are below the estimates adopted by the Federation and deliveries will be up to or in excess of the quota, the Federation will accept responsibility for a reduction in the 1973-1974 delivery quotas.

The Government's decision clears the way for the Australian Agricultural Council, of which the Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Sinclair, is a member, to take decisions in Perth next week on the quotas for next season.

The Government has reached this position after taking into account the present wheat stocks situation, which is substantially lower than has been the case over the past two years and the prospective export outlets for wheat in the present season.

The decision recognises the desirability of the industry being in a position to provide continuity of supply to its markets.

Further details are available from the Minister for Primary Industry.