



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS :



PM no 19/1972

LOANS TO AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD

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

Cabinet has approved the introduction of legislation to enable the Commonwealth to meet its guarantee to re-pay loans made to the Australian Wheat Board by the Rural Credits Department of the Reserve Bank.

The loans were obtained by the Wheat Board to finance the first advance to growers on quota wheat of the 1970-71 season. The Commonwealth will lend the Board the funds needed to repay the Rural Credits Department the amount outstanding on the due date, 31 March 1972.

It is expected that about \$95 million will be involved.

As in the case of the similar loan made to the Board by the Commonwealth last year, the funds will be advanced at an interest rate of 5½%.

Further details are available from the Minister for Primary Industry.

CANBERRA
8 February 1972