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PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 434

25 January 1974

Joint Statement by the Prime Minister, the Hon. E.G. Whitlam, Q.C., M.P., and the Premier of South Australia, Mr Dunstan

URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam and the Premier of South Australia, Mr Dunstan today signed an Urban and Regional Development Agreement which will provide assistance of more than \$41 million for programs in South Australia this financial year.

The South Australian Government is the first State Government to enter into such an Agreement which may be the initial step towards a long term agreement covering a wider range of urban and regional development programs.

The signing of this comprehensive Agreement is a tangible result of the desire of the Australian and South Australian Governments to co-operate to improve the day-to-day lives of South Australians.

This Agreement covers financial assistance for:

- . The South Australian Land Commission to make land available at a price people can afford.
- . The development of Monarto to provide an alternative to existing cities
- . The provision of sewerage and water supply to improve water quality.
- . The Area Improvement and the National Estate Programs.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Attachment

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LAND COMMISSION

A total of \$24 million is available as a 30 year loan at the long term bond rate with repayments deferred for the first ten years mainly to acquire large areas of land for urban use.

The program is aimed directly at increasing the supply of serviced land on the market, making it available at a price people can afford to pay and which excludes or greatly reduces the speculative component, and at helping the co-ordination of urban development.

Legislation to establish the South Australian Land Commission was passed by the State Government in October, 1973, and \$8 million was made available by the Australian Government last financial year which was used to acquire 1,220 hectares of land.

South Australia pioneered the program and has shown the way to other States. It is expected that the first land will be put on the market in March.

MONARTO

The Australian and South Australian Government have agreed to accept the Monarto Development Commission's first stage development plan which provides for a population target of between 25,000 and 30,000 people by the end of 1983.

The development program for this financial year includes land acquisition, investigations and studies, and further tree planting which is expected to cost about \$7.5 million.

Under the Agreement signed today, the Australian Government will supply \$6 million, or 80 per cent of the total expenditure whichever is the lesser amount, mainly by way of loans and matching grants.

The development of Monarto and growth centres in other States is aimed at encouraging the rapid development of a small number of regional growth centres as desirable alternatives to existing cities.

The role of the Monarto Development Commission is to plan and manage the development of Monarto and the attraction of population and industry to the new city.

AREA IMPROVEMENT

A total of \$500,000 will be made available in the Northern Spencer Gulf Region of South Australia for an Area Improvement Program which aims to link the three levels of Government and community groups together in a co-operative venture.

The programs are developed in co-operation with the Regional Organisation of Councils which covers the local government council areas of Carrieton, Crystal Brook, Georgetown, Gladstone, Mallet, Hawker, Jamestown District, Jamestown Municipality, Manyaka-Quorn, Laura, Ororoo, Peterborough District, Peterborough Municipality, Pirie, Port Augusta, Port Germein, Port Pirie, Red Hill, Spalding, Whyalla and Wilmington.

Area Improvement Programs are directed to specific regions selected for social and economic reasons and because major deficiencies exist. The funds which are for specific purposes, aim to give the region a better living environment and to improve forward planning.

SEWERAGE

Under the National Sewerage Program \$5,750,000 will be made available to remove existing backlog of unsewered premises and to improve sewerage treatment, the long term aim being to ensure that by 1982 all new homes can be connected to an environmentally adequate sewerage system. The program also covers the treatment of industrial wastes. An important underlying objective is the protection of water supplies from pollution.

This year the Program is being extended to cover smaller cities and the centres which will benefit from this extension in South Australia are Whyalla and Mt. Gambier.

The funds will be made available in the form of 30% non-interest bearing non-repayable grants and the rest as loans at the long term bond rate.

WATER SUPPLY

Adelaide's water treatment scheme will be assisted under this agreement by the provision of \$4.4 million this year. These funds will also be in the form of 30% grants and 70% loans. Adelaide's water comes from local catchments and the River Murray. Both of these sources are contaminated and the city's water supply falls a long way short of international quality standards. The water treatment scheme is aimed at completely eliminating this problem over the next 10 years. The various planned treatment works will be supplemented by measures to protect the water catchment areas wherever possible.

NATIONAL ESTATE

A total of \$866,000 will be made available for land acquisition, studies, restoration, preservation and improvement of landscapes and buildings of special significance.

Under the National Estate Program in 1973/74, \$262,000 was provided to assist with 14 projects, and considerably more projects are expected to be undertaken this financial year.

The Australian Government recently approved the establishment of an Australian Heritage Commission which will play a vital role in future programs when the necessary legislation is passed by the Australian Parliament.

Projects approved in the program this financial year have been recommended to the Minister for Urban and Regional Development, Tom Uren, by the Interim Committee on the National Estate.