

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



## PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 202

11 March 1974

### FLOODS

I am profoundly concerned at the renewed flooding in Queensland and New South Wales and the plight of many families. I extend the Government's sympathy to all those affected by the floods.

I have sought immediate and up-to-date reports on the flood situation. The Leader of the Country Party, Mr. Anthony, has drawn my attention to the situation in Lismore and Murwillumbah. It is tragic that further flooding should occur so soon after the recent devastation in Queensland and Northern New South Wales. I have agreed with the Minister for Defence that the defence forces will again provide all possible immediate assistance during the present emergency.

No effort will be spared to ensure the safety of life and the supply of necessary food and shelter. I assure all victims of the latest flooding that the same assistance and guarantees of long-term aid for flood relief and restoration that we have pledged to the earlier flood victims will be extended to the victims of the latest flooding.

This will be provided, where necessary, through co-operation with the State authorities.

CANBERRA.     A.C.T.