



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 203

12 March 1974

PRIMARY INDUSTRY REFERENCES SENT TO THE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

The Prime Minister announced today that three references dealing with:

- . the apple and pear stabilisation plan
- . the dried vine fruits stabilisation plan
- . bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis slaughter compensation

have been sent to the Industries Assistance Commission on 11 March 1974 for inquiry and report.

Because of legislation requirements there is a need for these references to be enquired into and reported upon by the Commission as soon as possible.

The apple and pear stabilisation plan expires with the 1975 season. It is anticipated that this will be a relatively complex enquiry and a report will be needed before 31 August 1975 to allow for any necessary negotiations with industry and legislation to apply to the 1976 harvest. Similarly considerations apply to the dried vine fruits stabilisation plan which also expires with the 1975 season and will require a report before 31 August 1975. In the case of the bovine tuberculosis scheme there is an agreement with the States that it is to be reviewed before 30 June 1976. The brucellosis slaughter compensation scheme has been recommended by the Australian Agricultural Council and in order that the Government can consider the proposal further a report will be needed from the Commission in time for the Government to consider and, if necessary, introduce legislation effective from 1 January 1976.

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