

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER,
BANKSTOWN MEETING, 15 MAY, 1974

SIR ROBERT ASKIN HAS SHOWN A RECKLESS AND
IRRESPONSIBLE INDIFFERENCE TO THE NEEDS OF NEW SOUTH WALES
AND THE OPPORTUNITIES HELD OUT TO HIM BY THE AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT FOR FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION.

THIS GREAT DEFENDER OF FEDERALISM, THIS SELF-STYLED
APOSTLE OF COMMONWEALTH-STATE CO-OPERATION, HAS REJECTED
NEARLY EVERY INITIATIVE FOR CO-OPERATION PUT FORWARD BY THE
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DURING THE PAST 17 MONTHS.

HIS DOCTRINAIRE OBSESSION WITH STATE RIGHTS HAS COST
THE PEOPLE OF NEW SOUTH WALES DEARLY.

IT HAS SET BACK BY MONTHS -- PERHAPS YEARS - THEIR
PROSPECTS FOR BETTER URBAN TRANSPORT, FOR YOUTH CENTRES, FOR
HEALTH SERVICES, FOR REASONABLE LAND PRICES,

TIME AND AGAIN SIR ROBERT ASKIN HAS REFUSED EVEN
TO ACKNOWLEDGE OFFERS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OF
HELP AND CO-OPERATION. MONTHS HAVE PASSED WITHOUT A REPLY
TO OUR LETTERS.

*Govt relations - Premier N.S.W. x
STATE GOVT.*

YET THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TREATED SIR ROBERT ASKIN AND THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT WITH UNPARALLELED GENEROSITY. OUR PAYMENTS TO NEW SOUTH WALES HAVE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN EVERY AREA.

OUR TOTAL SPECIFIC PURPOSE PAYMENTS TO NEW SOUTH WALES ARE ESTIMATED AT \$540,265,000 THIS FINANCIAL YEAR. UNDER MR. SNEDDEN'S LAST BUDGET THESE PAYMENTS TOTALLED \$294,562,000 FOR 1972/73.

OUR TOTAL SPECIFIC CAPITAL GRANTS WILL GO UP FROM \$160,793,000 TO AN ESTIMATED \$332,062,000.

OUR GENERAL REVENUE GRANTS WILL GO UP FROM \$537,000,000 TO AN ESTIMATED \$581,000,000.

OUR TOTAL PAYMENTS OF ALL KINDS WILL GO UP FROM \$831,000,000 TO AN ESTIMATED \$1,121,000,000.

LET ME GIVE SOME SPECIFIC EXAMPLES.

*Financial Grants - treatment
to N.S.W. State
GOVT*

Specific Purpose Payments *Federal Govt*
finances to States.

IN SPECIFIC PURPOSE CAPITAL PAYMENTS, THE LAST *Capital*
SNEDDEN BUDGET GAVE \$10,522,000 FOR UNIVERSITIES; WE WILL
GIVE \$17,676,000. THE LIBERALS GAVE \$10,637,000 FOR SCHOOLS;
WE WILL GIVE \$32,029,000. THE LIBERALS GAVE \$107,000 FOR
SENIOR CITIZEN CENTRES; WE WILL GIVE \$310,000. THE LIBERALS
GAVE \$3,500,000 FOR HOUSING; WE WILL GIVE \$86,000,000. THE
LIBERALS GAVE \$2,821,000 FOR ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT; WE
WILL GIVE \$3,715,000. THE LIBERALS GAVE \$85,590,000 FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH AID ROADS PROGRAM; WE WILL GIVE \$98,270,000.

IN SPECIFIC PURPOSE REVENUE PAYMENTS, THE LIBERALS *Revenue*
GAVE \$32,155,000 FOR UNIVERSITIES; WE WILL GIVE \$79,437,000.
THE LIBERALS GAVE NOTHING FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING; WE WILL
GIVE \$5,801,000. THE LIBERALS GAVE \$15,046,000 FOR SCHOOLS;
WE WILL GIVE \$34,053,000. THE LIBERALS GAVE NOTHING FOR
PRE-SCHOOLS; WE WILL GIVE \$1,300,000. THE LIBERALS GAVE
NOTHING FOR URBAN IMPROVEMENT; WE HAVE GIVEN \$5,066,000 FOR THE
WESTERN SECTOR OF SYDNEY ALONE.

I HAVE TO ADMIT THERE IS ONE AREA WHERE OUR PAYMENTS HAVE FALLEN DRASTICALLY. THAT IS IN UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF.

THE LAST LIBERAL GOVERNMENT GAVE NEW SOUTH WALES \$37,220,000 FOR UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF. OUR ESTIMATED TOTAL FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR IS \$4,530,000.

less unemployment relief.

LAND COMMISSION

SIR ROBERT ASKIN HAS SHOWN UTTER CONTEMPT FOR THE HARDSHIPS SUFFERED BY YOUNG HOMESEEKERS IN HIS STATE. HE HAS DONE NOTHING TO CHECK THE SOARING COST OF LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

LAND COSTS IN SYDNEY ARE THE HIGHEST IN AUSTRALIA. THE AVERAGE PRICE OF A BLOCK OF LAND IS \$18,500. THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO USE ITS POWERS TO CHECK THE LAND SPIRAL, DESPITE THE FACT THAT IN HIS 1970 ELECTION CAMPAIGN SIR ROBERT PROMISED ACTION ON PRICES, INCLUDING A ROYAL COMMISSION. HE HAS DONE NOTHING TO HONOUR THAT PROMISE.

Land.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS TO ESTABLISH LAND COMMISSIONS IN EACH STATE TO BUY UP TRACTS OF RESIDENTIAL LAND AND SELL THEM AT FAIR PRICES TO HOMESEEKERS.

LOOK AT THE SORRY RECORD OF DELAY AND OBSTRUCTION BY THE ASKIN GOVERNMENT.

I WROTE TO THE PREMIER ON 27 DECEMBER 1972 OUTLINING THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S LAND PROPOSALS AND ASKING FOR EARLY MEETINGS. THE PREMIER WROTE ON 15 FEBRUARY NOMINATING OFFICIALS FOR DISCUSSIONS.

WE INFORMED SIR ROBERT ON 21 AUGUST 1973 OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S INITIAL OFFER OF \$30 MILLION TO THE STATES FOR 1973/74 FOR LAND COMMISSION PURPOSES. NOTHING HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE PREMIER APART FROM A FORMAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DATED 30 AUGUST 1973.

NEW SOUTH WALES WAS TO GET \$10.5 MILLION IN 1973/74 WITH A SIMILAR AMOUNT IN 1974/75 FOR COMMITMENTS ENTERED INTO IN 1973/74.

URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

WE HAVE OFFERED NEW SOUTH WALES GRANTS TOTALLING \$28.6 MILLION FOR URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT PROJECTS COMMENCED IN 1973/74. OF THIS TOTAL, \$12.6 MILLION WAS TO BE PROVIDED IN 1973/74 AND THE REMAINDER OVER THE NEXT FOUR FINANCIAL YEARS.

Transport

THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS SENT TO THE PREMIER ON 20 MARCH 1974. ~~_____~~

~~_____~~ HE IS STILL ARGUING ABOUT MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGREEMENT.

YET THE PREMIERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA HAVE ALREADY SIGNED THE AGREEMENT. THEY SIGNED IT ON 28 MARCH 1974. I SIGNED THE AGREEMENT ON 29 MARCH.

GROWTH CENTRES

I WROTE TO THE PREMIER ON 21 AUGUST 1973 OFFERING \$9.4 MILLION IN 1973/74 FOR HOLSWORTHY/CAMPBELLTOWN, BATHURST/^{Central} ORANGE AND GOSFORD/WYONG. I WROTE AGAIN ON 11 SEPTEMBER PROPOSING AN EARLY MEETING OF MINISTERS. ^{-isation}

THE PREMIER REPLIED ON 19 NOVEMBER ASKING FOR AN INDICATION, IN ADVANCE OF ANY SUCH MEETINGS, OF THE LIKELY TERMS OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.

DETAILED PROPOSALS WERE SUBMITTED TO THE PREMIER ON 12 FEBRUARY 1974. THIS WAS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE PREMIER ON 22 FEBRUARY BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE.

QUEANBEYAN BRIDGE

ON 25 FEBRUARY I WROTE TO SIR ROBERT OFFERING THAT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION SHARE THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING A NEW BRIDGE OVER THE RAILWAY LINE AT QUEANBEYAN AS PART OF A FOUR LANE DIVIDED ROAD LINK BETWEEN CANBERRA AND QUEANBEYAN, WITH THE NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF MAIN ROADS AND THE STATE RAILWAYS. THIS LETTER, AND A FURTHER LETTER DATED 10 APRIL, HAVE RECEIVED FORMAL

HOSPITALS

WE ALLOCATED \$4 MILLION TO NEW SOUTH WALES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TEACHING HOSPITAL AT WESTMEAD. THIS MONEY HAS NEVER BEEN USED.

Hospitals.

ON 7 DECEMBER LAST SIR ROBERT ASKIN WROTE TO ME REQUESTING THAT \$500,000 OF THE ALLOCATION OF \$4 MILLION TO THE WESTMEAD PROJECT BE DIRECTED TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 104-BED WARD AT THE LIVERPOOL DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN 1973/74 AND THAT A FURTHER CONTRIBUTION BE MADE TOWARDS THE EXPENDITURE OF \$1.5 MILLION IN 1974/75 WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE WARD BLOCK.

ON 28 FEBRUARY I REPLIED TO THE PREMIER AGREEING TO THE ALLOCATION OF THE \$500,000 BUT STATING THAT THE QUESTION OF FURTHER SUPPORT FOR USE IN 1974/75 WOULD BE EXAMINED AGAIN AFTER CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT BY THE HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SERVICES COMMISSION. THE LETTER SOUGHT THAT THE WARD BLOCK DISPLAY SOME ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION AND THAT IT BE REPRESENTED ON THE BOARD OF LIVERPOOL DISTRICT HOSPITAL. IT WAS LEFT TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH, DR. EVERINGHAM, TO TAKE THESE MATTERS UP WITH THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH IN NEW SOUTH WALES. DR. EVERINGHAM WROTE TO THE NEW SOUTH WALES MINISTER FOR HEALTH IN MARCH REPEATING THE CONDITIONS OF THE OFFER OF \$500,000 FOR LIVERPOOL. NO FORMAL REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT TO DATE.