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FOR PRESS

STATEMENT BY THE RT. HON. J. D. ANTHONY, M.P.,
ACTING PRIME MINISTER

DROUGHT RELIEF VICTORIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO VICTORIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA TO SUPPORT DROUGHT STRICKEN FARMERS IN THOSE STATES.

THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER, MR ANTHONY, ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE COMMONWEALTH HAD AGREED TO SUPPORT UNDER THE NATURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS EXPENDITURES ON CERTAIN AGREED DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURES BY VICTORIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

THE RELIEF MEASURES TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH FOR BOTH STATES INCLUDE:-

- SUBSIDIES FOR ROAD AND RAIL FREIGHT OF GRAIN AND FODDER TO DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS;
- SUBSIDIES FOR THE TRANSPORT OF STOCK FROM DROUGHT AREAS FOR AGISTMENT WITHIN THE STATE.

IN THE CASE OF THE DROUGHT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA THE COMMONWEALTH HAS ALSO AGREED TO SUPPORT EXPENDITURES ON CARRY-ON LOANS TO PRIMARY PRODUCERS.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE MEASURES CONCERNED MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE RESPECTIVE STATE GOVERNMENTS.

"THE NEED FOR CONTINUATION OF COMMONWEALTH SUPPORT OF EXPENDITURES ON THESE MEASURES WOULD BE REVIEWED AFTER FOUR MONTHS," MR ANTHONY SAID.

CANBERRA

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