



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

8 SEPTEMBER 1977

### GLADSTONE POWER STATION

The Prime Minister, the Right Honourable J. M. Fraser, and the Premier of Queensland, the Honourable J. Bjelke-Petersen, announced today that agreement had been reached on a request by Queensland for the provision of further assistance to Queensland for the Gladstone Power Station.

The Prime Minister recalled that under the Gladstone Power Station Act 1970, the Commonwealth had provided financial assistance of \$140 million as the agreed Commonwealth share of the cost of the initial four generating sets. Such assistance had been provided in the form of loans at concessional interest rates. The Act under which these funds were provided required the Commonwealth to participate in funding only in respect of expenditure up to 30 June 1977.

The Premier had requested additional funds towards an amount of \$47.4 million which remains to be expended to finish the first four sets of the power station. Such request involved Commonwealth support for a special addition to his State's semi-Government borrowing programme of \$25 million over the next three years.

Mr. Fraser said that the Commonwealth would be pleased to support a Queensland application to the Australian Loan Council for this special allocation.