



EMBARGO: 3.00 p.m.

**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR PRESS

17 DECEMBER 1977

NEW SOUTH WALES BUSH FIRES

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, has asked the Premier of New South Wales to convey his deepest sympathy to those affected by the fires.

Mr Fraser also extended his best wishes to the fire fighters still in the field and expressed the hope that the situation would soon be under control.

The Commonwealth will immediately join with New South Wales on a dollar for dollar basis in meeting expenditure for the relief of personal hardship and distress, Mr Fraser said.

Needless to say the Prime Minister added, the Commonwealth stands ready to assist with men and equipment. Further proposals for relief measures put forward by the State will receive prompt attention.

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My dear Premier,

I am deeply distressed to learn of the loss of life and severe damage to property caused by the bush fires in your State.

Please convey to those affected my sincere sympathy. To those still engaged in fighting the fires, I would like to extend my best wishes. I trust the situation will soon be under control.

The Commonwealth will, of course, share with the State on a dollar for dollar basis all necessary expenditure for the immediate relief of personal hardship and distress.

Needless to say, the Commonwealth also stands ready to assist with men and equipment. Proposals for further relief measures will receive prompt attention.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Neville Wran, QC, MLA,  
Premier of New South Wales

J.M. FRASER