



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

19 DECEMBER 1977

BUNDABERG IRRIGATION PROJECT - GRANT TO QUEENSLAND

The Prime Minister announced today that the Commonwealth Government is to make an additional grant of \$1.5 million available this financial year to the Queensland Government towards the Bundaberg Irrigation Project. The grant is to enable completion of the Gin Gin Channel from the Monduran Dam to the Burnett River near Maryborough.

The Prime Minister had announced the Government's intention to provide this grant prior to last Saturday's election.

The Prime Minister said that the offer would be in the form of a further non-repayable grant to Queensland on the basis of a dollar for dollar matching contribution by the State Government.

Mr Fraser said that legislation would be introduced as soon as possible into the new Parliament to give effect to the Government's decision.

He added that the Commonwealth has decided to provide this further assistance to Queensland because of the extremely dry conditions in the region and the need for the earliest possible availability of Monduran Dam water for the irrigation of sugar cane crops.

Since 1970, the Commonwealth Government has provided \$17.2 million towards the Bundaberg Irrigation Project including the Monduran Dam, the main pumping station and initial work on the Gin Gin Channel.
