



PRIME MINISTER

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EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION FOR VICTIMS OF BLUE MOUNTAINS FIRES

The Prime Minister, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, announced today that caravans which had been used as emergency housing in Darwin after Cyclone Tracy are to be made available to residents of the Blue Mountains.

Many residents wish to re-establish themselves on their land while their houses are rebuilt. The vans will provide emergency housing during this period.

Agreement to provide the vans follows a request from the State after an appeal for the loan of caravans by the Mayor of the Blue Mountains City Council, Alderman Leslie.

Arrangements have been made for the caravans to be freighted from Darwin to the Blue Mountains City Council. The caravans are being made available by the Commonwealth free of cost to the Council and the State Government.

"I am particularly pleased that these caravans which proved so useful in Darwin can now be utilised to assist the people in Lawson and other mountain towns" Mr. Fraser said.

This arrangement, which falls outside the normal natural disaster assistance scheme, again demonstrates the Commonwealth's willingness to act speedily and sympathetically when the need arises to help disaster victims.