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FILE

PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

18 JANUARY 1979

COMMONWEALTH ASSISTANCE TO QUEENSLAND IN RESPECT OF
CYCLONE PETER

The Prime Minister today announced that he had written to the Premier of Queensland agreeing to certain relief measures under the natural disaster assistance arrangements in connection with Cyclone Peter.

Mr. Fraser said he had informed Mr. Bjelke Petersen that the Commonwealth concurred in the implementation of certain measures to assist those suffering personal hardship and distress and for the restoration of public assets and emergency protection and repair work by State, local and semi-government authorities under the same terms and conditions as those which applied for similar disasters in 1977 and 1978.

The Commonwealth also agreed to loans being made to small businesses under the agreed terms which provide for loans up to a maximum of \$25,000 with a term of 3-5 years and an interest rate of 5 percent per annum.

Mr. Fraser also said that, in respect of affected primary producers, the Commonwealth would agree to the granting of loans for carry-on purposes of up to the agreed maximum of \$30,000, and to the implementation of freight subsidies on the terms and conditions agreed upon for similar disasters in 1977 and 1978.