



PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

5 MARCH 1979

Commonwealth Assistance to Queensland
in respect of Cyclone "Kerry"

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 respect of damage caused by Cyclone "Kerry".

Mr Fraser said "I have informed Mr Bjelke Petersen that the Commonwealth concurs 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 applying to the damage done earlier this year by Cyclone "Peter".

Mr Fraser also said that as damage from Cyclone "Kerry" had followed so closely on previous flood damage in North Queensland during January and February (including that caused by Cyclone "Peter"), the Commonwealth had agreed to the lot being treated as one disaster for administrative purposes under the Natural Disaster Assistance Arrangements, as this would be of significant help to Queensland.