



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

29 August 1979

LETTER TO NEW SOUTH WALES PREMIER -
KURNELL DISPUTE

The Prime Minister today sent the following letter to the Premier of New South Wales, Mr Wran:

" Mr dear Premier,

I am writing to you again in respect of the critical situation at the Kurnell refinery.

I am concerned that bans continue to be applied by the operators despite undertakings given to the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in June that they would return to normal work once the Federal award was suspended.

These bans severely limit the bringing into production of the new facilities at Kurnell. This has adverse implications for the supply of petroleum products to the New South Wales market in general and the Sydney market in particular.

I appreciate that your Government through the Minister for Industrial Relations, Mines and Energy, Mr Hills, has taken a number of initiatives to have the bans lifted. However, to date there has not been a successful resolution of the situation.

You will agree that it is in the interest of the people of New South Wales and the Australian community generally that all available action should be taken to resolve the situation at Kurnell and to ensure the fullest possible operations of the facilities.

Under the present arrangements, the operators are covered by the provisions of the New South Wales State Energy Authority Act. Accordingly, I ask how you see this matter developing and how you intend to achieve a full and proper lifting of the bans at Kurnell.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Fraser."