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JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE COMMONWEALTH MINISTER ASSISTING
THE PRIME MINISTER IN FEDERAL AFFAIRS, THE HON. WAL. FIFE, M.P.
AND MR HARRY JENSEN, M.L.A., NEW SOUTH WALES MINISTER FOR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AND ROADS

The Commonwealth Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Federal Affairs, the Hon. Wal. Fife, M.P., and the New South Wales Minister for Local Government and Roads, Mr Harry Jensen, M.P., today announced details of allocations to Councils in New South Wales for 1979/80 from Commonwealth Revenue Sharing Monies.

The Grants to individual Councils are in accordance with the recommendations made by the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission. The amount allocated to New South Wales local government bodies represents an increase of 23.5% over last year and is evidence of a real commitment to Local Government by the Commonwealth.

A total of \$80.929 million was distributed, an increase of \$15.443 million over 1978/79. The Ministers stated that a third of the total sum available had again been distributed on a population basis, with 87½% of that portion on an overall per capita basis to all Councils and the balance of 12½% of that portion as an additional grant to Councils with a population density of less than 25 persons per square kilometre.

This meant a per capita grant to all Councils of \$4.7181 with an additional \$3.9763 for all Councils, mainly Shires, which qualified for the weighting for population density. The remaining two thirds had been allocated on a general equalisation basis, with an emphasis on the needs for Councils.

The Ministers emphasised that the grants are completely untied and free of any strings whatsoever and that the way in which the grants are utilised is a matter for each Council to determine.

"This approach is in line with the policy of the two Governments to upgrade the status and independence of local governments", they said.

12 September 1979