



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

THURSDAY, 5 JUNE, 1980

QUEENSLAND DROUGHT ASSISTANCE TO PRIMARY PRODUCERS

The Prime Minister today announced that, following consideration of an approach from the Premier, the Commonwealth Government has agreed to provide further drought assistance to Queensland.

The Prime Minister was speaking in Surfers Paradise at the Annual Convention of the United Graziers' Association of Queensland. The announcement incorporates extensions to the Natural Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. The following will apply from today:-

- . The maximum concession applicable to road transport concessions will be increased from 40 cents to 50 cents per kilometre for a loaded cattle truck, and from 4 cents to 5 cents per tonne per kilometre for fodder and water.
- . The freight concession on water cartage will be extended to the carriage of water on properties to points beyond the farm gate. This concession, however, will not apply to transport of water between points within farms.
- . 50 per cent concession will apply to the cost of transporting essential machinery and equipment to affected properties or to and from where fodder is available. This concession will apply only to equipment which is an essential part of drought mitigation practices.
- . In addition and because of the severity of this drought, the rate of concession payable on all rail and road transport movements of fodder, water and stock will be increased from 50 per cent to 75 per cent. This additional concession will apply for the duration of this drought only.

Following on the Government's recently announced extension of the Natural Disaster Assistance arrangements to apply to primary producers in New South Wales, these further measures will be of great value to the drought-affected primary producers of Queensland.

The State, of course, will be responsible for the administrative arrangements associated with distributing these further assistance measures.