

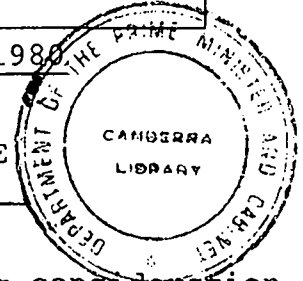


PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

THURSDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER, 1980

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN 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 Western Australia.

Mr. Fraser said that the Commonwealth has agreed to the financing of freight subsidies under the Natural Disaster Relief arrangements in the State's drought-affected central wheatbelt region, for the transport of stock to and from agistment and for the transport of fodder.

Mr. Fraser also said that the Commonwealth is deeply concerned at the suffering being experienced by farmers and pastoralists in Western Australia whose continued livelihood is being affected by what has been described by many as the worst drought in the State's history. The Commonwealth Government's decision in this matter is tangible evidence of its willingness to provide assistance to those in time of need.