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WAGES PAUSE

(Statement by the Acting Prime Minister,  
the Rt Hon J.D. Anthony, C.H., M.P.)

The Commonwealth submission for a 12-month wages and salaries pause in the private sector will be heard by the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission on Thursday. The Government is hopeful of a successful outcome at that hearing.

Legislation to implement a 12-month wages and salaries pause in the public sector will be introduced in the House of Representatives tomorrow afternoon.

The Government has also considered the proposal made by the ACTU last Thursday for a conference on the economy involving the Commonwealth and State Governments, the ACTU and employer representatives.

The Government seeks the active support of the ACTU for measures to relieve pressure on employment, and believes the proposal merits longer-term consideration.

It believes, however, that current economic conditions, especially the very real threat to jobs posed by further wage rises, make it imperative to successfully implement as soon as possible the wages and salaries pause agreed to at the Special Premiers Conference last week.

CANBERRA  
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