



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

THURSDAY, 20 JANUARY 1983

### ARMY TO PROVIDE FABRIC TANKS FOR TEMPORARY WATER STORAGE

The Prime Minister announced today that he had written to the Premier of Victoria indicating that the Army was prepared to meet the Premier's request for fabric tanks for temporary water storage at railheads for transporting water to drought affected rural towns in Victoria. The Premier had written indicating that contingency planning was under way for transporting water by rail to drought affected rural towns and Shires, and asked that the Army make available, on a stand-by basis by late January, fabric tanks with a total capacity of 750,000 litres.

This assistance follows on from the Commonwealth's agreement, conveyed to the Premier by the Acting Prime Minister on 17 December, to allow State expenditure on transporting water to drought affected towns and households as eligible for assistance on a \$3 Commonwealth to \$1 State basis under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements.

It is a further example of the Commonwealth's willingness to co-operate with the State Governments in providing measures of real assistance to those affected by the drought.

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