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PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

SATURDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 1983

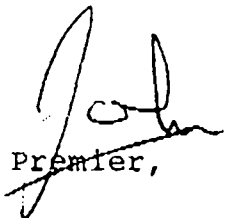
The attached letter has been sent to the Premier of South Australia, Mr Bannon, today.



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

19 FEB 1983


My dear Premier,

I refer to our telephone conversation this evening and attach the text of a press announcement I am making about the initial financial assistance the Commonwealth proposes to provide to South Australia and Victoria.

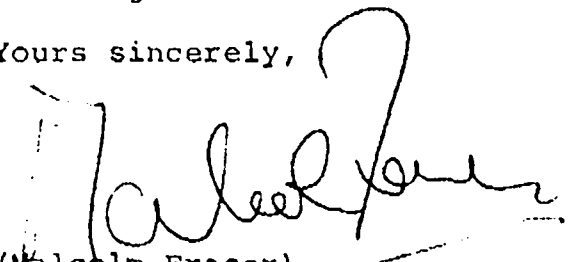
The Commonwealth, of course, stands ready to give urgent and sympathetic consideration to measures your Government may wish to propose to restore and rebuild communities, in addition to those already provided for under the Natural Disasters Relief Arrangements.

As initial instalments of Commonwealth financial assistance under those arrangements, I propose that \$6 million be provided to South Australia and I have also offered to the Premier of Victoria an advance of \$10 million against the Commonwealth's final contributions under the NDRA.

The Commonwealth is also prepared to extend categories of assistance beyond the core measures under the NDRA. Details of these extensions are set out in the attached press release.

It will, no doubt, be some days before a full assessment of the damage suffered in South Australia will be clear and I have asked officers of my Department to keep in close contact with their counterparts in South Australia and Victoria so that decisions can be taken expeditiously to aid in the restoration and rebuilding of communities.

Yours sincerely,


(Malcolm Fraser)

The Hon. John Bannon, MHA,
Premier of South Australia,
Parliament House,
ADELAIDE S.A. 5000