



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

TUESDAY, 1 MARCH 1983

DROUGHT RELIEF FOR SCRUB PUSHING

In recognition of the exceptional severity of the present drought on farmers throughout Australia, the Commonwealth has, on the request of Premiers, admitted a number of special measures normally outside the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements to Commonwealth relief subsidies.

Most recently, following a request from the Queensland Premier, the Commonwealth has agreed to subsidise the cost of scrub-pushing for farmers in Queensland whose properties have been declared drought-stricken for two years or more. This measure is a special measure in place for the duration of this drought only in recognition of the severity of the circumstances being faced presently by these farmers.

The impact of the measure will fall principally on isolated farmers in the far West of Queensland for whom the cost of stock agistment or hand feeding is unacceptably high. Scrub-pushing offers the most practicable method of assisting these isolated farmers to provide feed for drought-starved stock.

---o0o---