



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

Monday, 28 March 1983

The Prime Minister has written today to the Premier of Western Australia, Mr Burke, indicating the Government's concern at the damage and loss of life caused by widespread flooding in the Shires of Kimberley West and Halls Creek in the North-West of the State.

The Commonwealth has agreed to the Premier's proposal to implement flood relief measures under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements providing grants for relief of personal hardship and distress, grants for the restoration of public assets and, if necessary, concessional loans to pastoralists.

The Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements incorporate a range of standard relief measures which State Governments may invoke in response to major natural disasters in the knowledge that Commonwealth assistance will be forthcoming on a \$3 Commonwealth to \$1 State basis, once the State has met its base expenditure under the Arrangements.

Mr Hawke also advised the Premier that the Commonwealth is prepared to give prompt and sympathetic consideration to any request for additional relief measures, should this prove necessary following an inspection of the affected areas by the State Minister for Emergency Services.