



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

3 July 1983

No total costing of the Federal Government's compensation offer to Tasmania is possible at this stage.

The Tasmanian Premier, Mr Gray, is only guessing when he estimates the cost of compensation at more than \$500 million.

Until all the alternative employment projects are approved and a study of the level and sources of future electricity needs is completed it will not be possible to provide any reliable costing.

I have given Tasmanians an assurance that there will be full consultation with the State authorities on these issues.

The Federal Government will ensure that Tasmania is properly compensated for the decision to halt the Gordon-below-Franklin dam and again assures the workers involved that their employment needs will be met.