



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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### COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES

The Queensland Government is holding up urgently needed jobs improving water supplies in country towns.

Federal Government funds are lying idle, while the State Government dithers on how it should be spent.

The money is Queensland's share of a special allocation under the Community Employment Program designed to improve the quality and reliability of country water supplies.

The money has been available for weeks, but the Queensland Government will not even begin to consider how it should be spent until almost a month after the State election.

The availability of Commonwealth money for country town water supplies was first announced by the Treasurer in his 19 May Economic Statement. The Queensland Government has had plenty of time to consider the matter.

John Gayler has made the Federal Government very conscious of the inadequacies of water supplies to some country towns in the Far North and North West of Queensland.

A number of councils have made applications for funding under the special water projects scheme to be funded under the Community Employment Program.

I am confident that there will be good news for some of the local applicants, but until the State Government is prepared to honour its part of the bargain, these urgently needed projects cannot proceed.

Cairns