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**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR MEDIA

4 AUGUST 1988

The Government has given very careful consideration to the issues involved in the future of the Lemonthyme and Southern Forests of Tasmania.

It has decided that it will secure protection of those areas defined in the proposal put forward by the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, Senator Richardson. This will be built on the industry package developed by the Minister for Resources, Senator Cook.

Accordingly the Government will be putting a proposal to the Tasmanian Government involving a significant extension of financial assistance to Tasmania for forestry development over and above that proposed by Senator Cook.

A large part of that assistance will be for the development of plantations.

I will be seeking a meeting with Premier Gray on Thursday 11 August to discuss the matter.