



PRIME MINISTER

13/92

PRIME MINISTER MEETS RURAL TASK FORCE

The Prime Minister today met representatives of the Government's Rural Task Force as part of talks in the lead-up to the February Economic Statement.

The Chairman of the Task Force, Mr Brian Courtice and Mr Harry Woods, raised a number of issues with the Prime Minister including the drought, the decline in farm incomes and adding value to Australian agricultural products.

The Prime Minister also asked Mr Courtice to direct the Task Force to investigate ways of adding value to Australian agricultural products and to continue liaison with rural communities.

He also stressed that the Economic Statement would include specific measures aimed at addressing current problems in rural Australia and that the national recovery would bring more widespread benefits to Australian farming communities.

Canberra

7 February 1992