



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP

WORKING NATION JOBS IN SOUTH-WEST QUEENSLAND

I am pleased to announce today a \$12 million *Working Nation* Project to put 1000 long-term unemployed people from South-West Queensland into jobs.

The positions cover a diverse range of industries in the drought-stricken southern inland region from the Lockyer Valley west to the South Australian border.

They include skilled and unskilled work, will last for six months, and could lead to permanent work.

The project, known as "Partnerships Inc.", was funded under the New Work Opportunities scheme, an initiative of the Federal Government's *Working Nation* employment strategy.

The proposal was submitted by the Southern Inland Queensland Area Consultative Committee (ACC), a group of local business, community, union and government representatives chaired by Toowoomba solicitor Mr Pat Nunan.

With the effects of the drought on this area, the prospects of business picking up quickly, without assistance, and giving work to the local unemployed are still some way down the track.

The pattern of previous recoveries shows that the vast bulk of new jobs go to new entrants to the labour market, not the long-term unemployed.

This project is a partnership of government, employers and the community working toward the goal of securing much needed jobs and recovery for this region and ensuring the long-term unemployed are equipped to compete for the new jobs.

The placements include work with primary producers, drought landcare projects, tourist operators, government, the health-care industry and hospitality and retail employers.

The project area includes Toowoomba, Warwick, Gatton, Crows Nest, Pittsworth, Clifton, Allora, Stanthorpe, Texas, Goondiwindi, St George, Dirranbandi, Dalby, Chinchilla, Miles, Roma, Taroom, Wandoan, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Quilpie and Tambo.

The ACC is one of 62 similar independent groups set up across the country under *Working Nation* to generate local employment.

Employers interested in participating in the scheme can contact ACC member Peter Nicol of Toowoomba Regional Development Corporation on (076) 385977. Job seekers will be placed through the local CES.

ROMA
2 August 1995