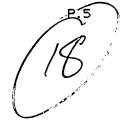
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PRIME MINISTER

THE THREDBO TRAGEDY

The thoughts and prayers of the entire nation are with those people unaccounted for and their families and friends following the Thredbo tragedy.

The hopes of all Australians are also with the rescue teams as they carry out the dangerous task of searching for any survivors beneath the devastation caused by the land slippage.

While the full extent of this tragedy is not yet known, the horrifying pictures of the scene at Thredbo are a reminder to all of the fragility of life and reinforce the strength which can be gained from a sense of community in times of national tragedy.

31 July 1997