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**Title:**

Mannum Industry Assistance, Murray Valley Standard

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

MANNUM INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE.

14.2.73

For Murray Valley Standard.

The David Shearer division of Horwood Bagshaw Ltd. at Mannum was now recruiting more workers, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, announced today.

The division now had about 330 people on its staff.

"This is particularly gratifying in view of the grave difficulties David Shearer Ltd. faced and the impact a collapse of the manufacturing operation would have had on the town".

The Premier was speaking after discussions with Mannum executives of the division on current operations and marketing prospects.

Mr. Dunstan said the State Government had made strenuous efforts since 1970 to ensure that the Mannum operation was kept going.

"This was done because it was vital for the people of Mannum.

"Without State Government intervention I believe many people in the town would have lost their jobs and that numbers of families would have broken up".

Mr. Dunstan said some details of the assistance given to the company - including matters now under consideration - were confidential.

Assistance to the company had included loans and guarantees.

The Housing Trust had also provided housing for employees in the town.

The Premier said he believed there was a prospect that if the Federal Government went ahead with concrete railway sleepers, rather than purely timber ones, this could also be of great benefit to Mannum.

Shearer's could manufacture cast iron shoulders for the sleepers.

The South Australian Government had made representations to the new Federal Government which had resulted in tenders in future being called for both concrete and timber sleepers on new railway projects.