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Title:

Press release - Discussions with the Minister for National Development

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE PREMIER, HON. DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P. 8.11.67.

"The discussions which I held today with the Minister of National Development proved, I believe, most useful. I think that there is a better understanding of South Australia's wishes concerning assured supply in the River Murray, and a basis has been laid for talks between all Governments concerned. It would not be proper for me to make any statement of agreement until such time as I have been able to consult Sir Henry Bolte and Mr. Askin, which I will be doing next week.

I was able also to put to Mr. Fairbairn that the Commonwealth should give consideration to providing finance to South Australia and Victoria for Chowilla on the same basis as that which it has agreed with New South Wales and has already been acting on. If this were done, it would mean that the Chowilla programme would in no way interfere with the loan works programme of South Australia nor of Victoria, and a dam which would be an important national asset could be provided without any disruption of plans for normal works and services. Naturally it is not possible for the Commonwealth to give an answer on this proposal at this stage, but I have been asked to outline the request in writing so that the matter can be considered.

There was a useful exchange of views on the basis of technical reports of South Australian officers arising from studies of the salinity problem, and I think the trip has been very worthwhile."
