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**Title:**  
Press statement - Premier on Gorton - Chowilla

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PRESS STATEMENT: 23/9/70.

Pr.D. 75/70.

FROM: THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)

Mr. Gorton not only does not reply to letters, he does not read them.

He has accused me of asking him to arrange a meeting with the Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria to discuss the Murray Waters Agreement, and he has accused me of being discourteous in negotiating directly with the other Premiers. The only reference I made to a meeting was in a letter to Mr. Gorton on 8th July, which read:

"In order that agreement be achieved, I request a meeting of yourself, the Premier of New South Wales and the Premier of Victoria with me during the next month".

No mention whatever was made of arranging a meeting - I merely requested that he agree to meet us.

I wrote in precisely the same terms to Mr. Askin and Sir Henry Bolte.

They didn't think I was asking them to arrange a meeting, but merely to agree to one.

I received no reply from Mr. Gorton to the substance of my letter which included the request that a meeting be agreed to, until the 19th September.

This was 24 hours after Mr. Gorton had attacked me in the House of Representatives for failing to reply to his letter.