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Title:

Joint statement - Premier and Lord Mayer - Festival Theatre

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FROM: JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE PREMIER (MR. DUNSTAN)
AND THE LORD MAYOR (MR. PORTER)

SUBJECT: ADELAIDE'S FESTIVAL THEATRE

The Premier (Mr. Dunstan) said today the Government had agreed to find an additional \$750,000 towards the increased cost of Adelaide's Festival Theatre.

He said the Government had examined submissions of the City Council, and had decided that it was essential that the theatre be completed as originally planned.

"A full examination of the tenders showed quite clearly that it would be impossible to contain the cost of the theatre within the figure originally set without making alterations to the agreed design.

"Any attempt to do so would only result in the theatre appearing as a penny-pinching, unsatisfactory job."

Mr. Dunstan expressed grave regret that the theatre would not be finished in time for the next festival.

"Despite all the speed with which the Adelaide City Council's Committee has pressed this matter, it is quite apparent that the theatre could not possibly be completed until late 1972".

Mr. Dunstan said that to continue the close co-operation that has existed between the City Council and the Government, an officer of the Premier's Department would sit in at future meetings of the Festival Theatre Committee.

The Lord Mayor (Mr. Porter) said he was delighted that the Government had agreed to support the theatre as it had been designed originally.

"The Council discussed with the Government various modifications that could be made to bring the theatre into the original cost estimate.

"However both parties rightly agreed that any such change would not give Adelaide a theatre built to the standards that the people of this State expect and deserve."

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Mr. Porter said he was pleased with the Government's decision to be actively represented on the Committee.

"The way is now clear for the Council to accept contracts with builders and suppliers for the completion of the theatre, and I expect this will be done next Monday.

"The continued willingness of the Government and the Council to work in close co-operation will ensure the completion of this exciting project as soon as possible.

"By joint effort between the State Government, the Federal Government, the Council and the people of this State, the Adelaide Festival Theatre will now become a reality."