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Title:
Press statement - Dartmouth Dam

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PRESS STATEMENT: 22. 2. 71.

FROM: THE PREMIER (DON DUNSTAN).

SUBJECT: DARTMOUTH DAM.

The South Australian Government would make an all-out effort to break the existing deadlock over the Dartmouth dam, the Premier (Mr. Dunstan) said today.

He said he had written to the Prime Minister and the Premiers of NSW and Victoria informing them that his Government was prepared to accede to the construction of Dartmouth, and appropriate monies for the necessary works.

"However in order to break the present impasse, the Government will introduce to the SA Parliament a Bill that will allow for so much of the amending River Murray Waters Agreement as provides for the building of the dam and its necessary ancillary arrangements, and appropriate monies for the construction work."

Mr. Dunstan stressed that the SA Government would not approve words in the amending Agreement providing for the ending of the Chowilla proposal.

"I expect the measure to pass through Parliament, and when it does SA will be ready and able to support the River Murray Commission in immediately proceeding with the construction of Dartmouth."

Mr. Dunstan said that in relation to Chowilla, the State Government would seek power to carry out the necessary works relating to amendments which it had previously put to the other Governments and Parliaments involved approving the amendments at some future time.

"The SA Government is determined to retain the State's right to Chowilla.

"The step it has taken is a practical one considering the circumstances, and provides SA, NSW and Victoria with additional water.

"It also gives SA a way of ensuring that the eastern States do not again try to kill the Chowilla dam, which provides essential safeguards for the State."

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