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**Title:**

Press statement - from South Australia House, London - Implications for Australia of the  
United Kingdom's Entry into the European Economic Community

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PRESS STATEMENT BY THE HON. D.A. DUNSTAN, PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Issued: South Australia House, London. 28th May, 1971.

Subject: Implications for Australia of the United Kingdom's  
Entry into the European Economic Community.

The Premier of South Australia (Mr. Dunstan), today bitterly attacked the terms on which the British Government is negotiating its proposed entry into the Common Market. He said they will have a potentially disastrous effect on every sector of Australia's rural industry not so far depressed.

Mr. Dunstan has been in London this week holding discussions with the new Agent General for South Australia (Mr. R.C. Taylor), concerning his State's development programme and its future trade prospects if Britain joins the six.

He said that he was "appalled at the indifference being shown in Whitehall towards Australian farmers, wine growers and irrigation-settlers. They are a price Mr. Heath is apparently prepared to pay to appease the inordinate demands of European agriculture".

"In negotiations for Britain's entry, a great deal of hand-wringing and concern has been shown for the plight of New Zealand, and it has been accepted that some special conditions will need to apply for them."

"It is clear that there is little, if any, realisation of the great harm that will be done to Australia if Britain accepts the present proposals."

"No special conditions are being sought by Britain to cover the potential dislocation in Australia."

"Not only will we lose any preference that we have, but we are not to be allowed to compete on equal terms with farmers in the Six and their associate countries."

Mr. Dunstan said that Australia already has a rural depression of grave proportions through the difficulties with wheat sales and the fall in the market for wool.

He said Australia was really faced with the likely loss of some 10% of people in rural employment, and the EEC could mean an additional 15% out of rural work.

"South Australia has a very considerable investment in irrigation areas in the production of canned and dried fruits and citrus."

"The tariff against us in the proposals would mean an increase of 15 new pence in the price of every can of our fruit on the London market."

"Dried fruit sales will become virtually impossible, since Greece and Turkey as associate members of the EEC have a quota of free entry and are expanding their plantings."

"Citrus also will face frightening difficulties and so will apples and pears."

"Our dairy products will be virtually excluded, and we are so far unable to obtain any adequate information as to what the future is of meat sales."

"While it is true that Australia's general economic position is happier than that of New Zealand, this is largely because of our mineral exports."

"The plight of rural industries in Australia is just as difficult at present and in prospect, as for those similar industries in N.Z."

"The fact is that the industries and installations which have been built up over many years to supply the English market from Australia only exist because of the requirements of that market."

"It will be a very sad commentary on the things that have been said in the past about maintaining the Commonwealth as a community, if Britain decides to accept conditions which will spell ruin to the Australian farmers and investors whom it has previously encouraged to establish to provide England's needs in both peace and war."

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