



Archived at the Flinders Academic Commons:
<http://hdl.handle.net/2328/27231>

This is a scan of a document number DUN/Speeches/2533
in the Dunstan Collection, Special Collections, Flinders University Library.
<http://www.flinders.edu.au/library/info/collections/special/dunstan/>

Title:

Press release: Seas and submerged lands acts

Please acknowledge the source as:
Dunstan Collection, Flinders University Library.
Identifier: DUN/Speeches/2533

© Copyright Estate Donald Allan Dunstan

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

SEAS AND SUBMERGED LANDS ACT.

4.7.74

South Australia has decided to issue proceedings against the Commonwealth to test the validity of the Seas and Submerged Lands Act. This was announced today by the Premier and Acting Attorney-General, Mr. Dunstan.

He said that he was reluctant to take action against the Commonwealth but in the circumstances was left with no alternative as proceedings had been initiated by the other States.

South Australia would be in an impossible position unless the position regarding the internal waters of the State in the gulfs, and adjacent to Kangaroo Island and the atypical position of South Australia's letters patent founding the province and declaring the territory of the State were put to the High Court.

"The only way to ensure this is to issue proceedings ourselves since the Federal Minister has invited the challenge to the Act in order to get the law defined."

South Australia had suggested to the Commonwealth Government that the proper and desirable procedure was for the Commonwealth to invite the States to join in a test case in the High Court which could be done co-operatively.

However, the Commonwealth had refused to accede to this suggestion.

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

SEAS AND SUBMERGED LANDS ACT.

4.7.74

South Australia has decided to issue proceedings against the Commonwealth to test the validity of the Seas and Submerged Lands Act. This was announced today by the Premier and Acting Attorney-General, Mr. Dunstan.

He said that he was reluctant to take action against the Commonwealth but in the circumstances was left with no alternative as proceedings had been initiated by the other States.

South Australia would be in an impossible position unless the position regarding the internal waters of the State in the gulfs, and adjacent to Kangaroo Island and the atypical position of South Australia's letters patent founding the province and declaring the territory of the State were put to the High Court.

"The only way to ensure this is to issue proceedings ourselves since the Federal Minister has invited the challenge to the Act in order to get the law defined."

South Australia had suggested to the Commonwealth Government that the proper and desirable procedure was for the Commonwealth to invite the States to join in a test case in the High Court which could be done co-operatively.

However, the Commonwealth had refused to accede to this suggestion.
