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**Title:**

Press release: Kangaroo Island bushfire

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN

10/2/75

KANGAROO ISLAND BUSHFIRE

Special aid for Kangaroo Island farmers who lost stock and grazing in last week's huge bushfires was today approved by State Cabinet.

Details of the help to be provided to farmers affected were given by the Premier, Mr. Dunstan:

- . Grants for the purchase of hay and grain from last Thursday (February 6) to June 30.
- . Grants for the agistment of stock from last Thursday to June 30.
- . Transport of stock from the disaster area to agistment and return to be subsidised on a \$1 for \$1 basis.
- . Transport of fodder to be subsidised on a \$1 for \$1 basis. Fodder needed after July 1 next would be dealt with on an individual basis to be fixed at that time.
- . Bushfire affected farmers will be eligible for a 50% rebate on the cost of freighting stock from Kangaroo Island to Adelaide by surface transport up to February 28.
- . Priority will be given to shipment of fencing materials to the Island.

Mr. Dunstan said Lands Department Inspectors on the Island had worked continuously to assess losses and the immediate needs of farmers.

The Superintendent of the Rural Industries Assistance Scheme would go to Kangaroo Island tomorrow to take any action required.

War Service Settlers under Stock Mortgage with the Lands Department can continue to get advances for working and living expenses.

Other assistance would be under the Primary Producers Emergency Assistance Act.

Mr. Dunstan said that if the number of stock to be moved made it necessary, arrangements would be made for the M.V. Troubridge to make special voyages.

The fire affected between 40 and 50 farms and the pastures were all burnt out on about 15 of them.

Stock losses were substantial, but the number had not been determined. In addition there was destruction of farming property such as sheds, outbuildings, fences and hay stacks.

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