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**Title:**

Press release: State finances

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STATE FINANCES

18.2.75

The State Government will spend its new allocation of nearly \$23 M. from the Commonwealth on a programme geared to provide the maximum number of jobs, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, told Parliament today.

He also announced a lifting of the virtual freeze on new public service jobs.

He was making - as Treasurer - a special report on South Australia's finances.

The money will be spent by June 30.

Mr. Dunstan said the biggest amount, \$14.7 M., would be put into the works programme on projects that would have the greatest short-term effect on employment.

It would include maintenance and repair jobs which were quick-acting and which had a high labour content.

Another \$3.6 M. would be channelled through local government bodies on special employment schemes.

The Highways Department would receive \$2.7 M. to maintain its present level of employment and - if possible - restore part of the reduction that had taken place over the last seven months.

The remaining \$1.9 M. will go to semi-government works on projects that will create most employment.

Mr. Dunstan added that Cabinet had decided to lift the virtual freeze on new public service jobs, applied in recent weeks.

But, he warned, departments would still have to be very careful in implementing the modest new expansion programme.

Mr. Dunstan said it was now estimated that the State's revenue deficit - because of the new grants - would be reduced to about \$20.4 M.

A further completion grant from the Commonwealth would cut this to about \$12.4 M. at June 30.

Mr. Dunstan said he was holding a \$10.2 M. reserve on loan account. This gave the State a prospective net deficit on the two accounts of \$2.2 M.

The Premier added that negotiations on means of removing franchise taxes on petrol and tobacco products were continuing with the Commonwealth.

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