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Title:

Press release - Commonwealth-State agreement on urban transport

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An agreement giving South Australia an immediate \$4M. to spend on urban transport was today signed by the Premier (Mr Dunstan). The Commonwealth State Agreement is expected to provide another \$6M. in the following year.

Mr Dunstan said the \$10M. and future grants would bring real and rapid improvements in travel between the city and the suburbs. Money would be spent immediately on three projects.

They are the extension and duplication of the Christies Downs line, upgrading of the Glenelg tram route, new buses for the MTT and improvements to MTT facilities.

The agreement granting the financial assistance was signed by the Premier (Mr Dunstan) for South Australia.

It will be signed by the Prime Minister (Mr Whitlam) for the Commonwealth Government.

The 'Urban Public Transport' agreement provides for the Australian Government to make grants of two-thirds of the cost of approved urban public transport projects.

The Premier said the signing of the agreement was an important step in the Government's plans to upgrade public transport. We have been severely limited in what we can do previously because the Commonwealth has until now refused this help.

"The present Federal Government is the first to recognise the need to improve the quality, capacity, efficiency and frequency of public transport systems around Australia."

In the first year of the agreement - 1973/1974 - South Australia will receive a grant of \$4.04M.

Mr Dunstan said he expected that the 1974/74 grant from the Australian Government would be 50% greater than this years. Provision is made for further grants in future years.

"It is further and most welcome evidence of the benefits of Federal/State cooperation in tackling the urgent problems facing the major Australian cities", he said.