



RURAL RECONSTRUCTION.

No. 83 of 1973.

ANALYSIS.

1. Short title.
2. Entering into agreement authorized.
3. Amendment of the *Rural Reconstruction Act 1971*.



AN ACT to ratify an agreement for the continuation of financial assistance by the Commonwealth to rural industries and for matters incidental thereto.

[19 December 1973.]

BE it enacted by His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:—

1 This Act may be cited as the *Rural Reconstruction Act 1973*. Short title.

Entering into
agreement
authorized.

2 The entering into an agreement, by or on behalf of the State, with the Commonwealth substantially in accordance with the form contained in the schedule, is authorized.

Amendment of
the *Rural
Reconstruction
Act 1971*.

3 Section four of the *Rural Reconstruction Act 1971* is amended by inserting after the word "Agreement" the words "and any variation of that agreement effected by an agreement authorized by the Parliament."

THE SCHEDULE.

(Section 2.)

THIS AGREEMENT made the _____ day of _____

One thousand nine hundred and seventy-three between—

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA of the first part,

THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES of the second part,

THE STATE OF VICTORIA of the third part,

THE STATE OF QUEENSLAND of the fourth part,

THE STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA of the fifth part,

THE STATE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA of the sixth part and

THE STATE OF TASMANIA of the seventh part is supplemental to the agreement in relation to the provision of financial assistance for persons engaged in rural industries in the States (in this agreement called 'the Principal Agreement') that was approved by the States Grants (Rural Reconstruction) Act 1971 and was made between the Commonwealth and all the States the fourth day of June 1971.

WHEREAS—

- (a) the Commonwealth and the States are desirous of varying the terms and conditions upon which financial assistance is provided by the Commonwealth to the States under the Principal Agreement and of extending the period during which financial assistance is to be provided;
- (b) the Parliament of the Commonwealth will be requested to approve this agreement and to authorise the grant of financial assistance to the States in accordance with the provisions of the Principal Agreement as varied by this agreement,

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED as follows:—

Approval of
Agreement.

1. This agreement shall have no force or effect and shall not be binding upon any party until it has been approved by the Parliament of the Commonwealth.

2. Upon being approved by the Parliament of the Commonwealth, this agreement shall be deemed to have come into force and to have commenced on the first day of July 1973 so that the Principal Agreement shall be regarded as having been varied on that date and as providing for and giving effect to acts done on and from that date as if it had been so varied.

Commencement
of Agreement.

3.—(1.) In this agreement, each State that is a party is referred to as a 'State', and the expression 'the States' means, except where the context otherwise requires, all of the States that are for the time being parties.

Construction
and Operation
of Agreements

(2.) The Principal Agreement as varied by this agreement shall be construed as if this agreement were incorporated in and formed part of the Principal Agreement and so that, except where the context otherwise requires, references in the Principal Agreement to that agreement were references to that agreement as varied by and incorporating the provisions of this agreement.

(3.) Except where the contrary intention appears, expressions used in this agreement that are expressions to which meanings are attributed in the Principal Agreement have in this agreement the respective meanings so attributed to them.

4.—(1.) On and from the first day of July 1973, the provisions of clauses 11 and 12 of the Principal Agreement shall cease to apply in respect of the provision of financial assistance by the Commonwealth and the provisions set out hereafter in this clause shall apply in their place.

Provision of
Financial
Assistance.

(2.) Subject to, and to the performance by a State of, the provisions of the Principal Agreement as varied by this agreement, the Commonwealth will during the financial years commencing on the first day of July in the years 1973, 1974 and 1975 make financial assistance available to the States for the purposes of the Scheme.

(3.) The amount of the financial assistance to be made available by the Commonwealth to each State during a financial year shall be determined by the Commonwealth before the commencement of the financial year following a meeting of Commonwealth and State Ministers which will review the circumstances relating to the financial year and which will give due consideration to submissions made by the States not later than the end of the February last preceding the financial year and will have regard to such other criteria as the Commonwealth considers appropriate.

5.—(1.) Clause 6 of the Principal Agreement shall not apply to financial assistance made available by the Commonwealth during the financial years specified in sub-clause (2.) of clause 4 of this agreement.

Allocation of
Financial
Assistance

(2.) Subject to the provisions of the Principal Agreement as varied by this agreement, the financial assistance made available by the Commonwealth to a State after the first day of July 1973 shall be applied to the forms of assistance under the Scheme, namely debt reconstruction, farm build-up and rehabilitation as referred to in accordance with clause 5 of the Principal Agreement.

(3.) The allocation by a State of the financial assistance during a financial year between the forms of assistance shall be in accordance with a determination made by the Commonwealth prior to the commencement of the financial year after consultation with the State, in which determination shall be specified a target percentage for commitments on farm build-up which the State should endeavour to achieve and a maximum percentage of commitments on debt reconstruction which the State may not exceed without the prior approval of the Commonwealth.

(4.) The consultations referred to in sub-clause (3.) of this clause shall extend to establishing by agreement between the Commonwealth and the State a firm programme of commitments of the financial assistance month by month during the year.

(5.) If during a financial year either the Commonwealth or a State informs the other that it considers the allocation of the financial assistance by the State or the programme of commitments in respect of the year should be varied, further consultations will be held between the Commonwealth and the State with a view to varying the determination by the Commonwealth for the purposes of sub-clause (3.) of this clause should the Commonwealth see fit to do so or varying the programme of commitments for the purposes of sub-clause (4.) of this clause, as the case may be.

Title of
Agreements.

6. The Principal Agreement as varied by this agreement shall be known as 'the 1971-1973 Rural Reconstruction Agreement'.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this agreement has been executed as at the day and year first above written.

SIGNED for and on behalf of THE COMMON-
WEALTH OF AUSTRALIA by the Honourable
EDWARD GOUGH WHITLAM, Prime Minister,
in the presence of—

SIGNED for and on behalf of THE STATE OF
NEW SOUTH WALES by the Honourable SIR
ROBERT WILLIAM ASKIN, Premier, in the
presence of—

SIGNED for and on behalf of THE STATE OF
VICTORIA by the Honourable RUPERT JAMES
HAMER, Premier, in the presence of—

SIGNED for and on behalf of THE STATE OF
QUEENSLAND by the Honourable JOHANNES
BJELKE-PETERSEN, Premier, in the presence
of—

1973.

Rural Reconstruction.

No. 83.

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SIGNED for and on behalf of THE STATE OF }
SOUTH AUSTRALIA by the Honourable }
DONALD ALLAN DUNSTAN, Premier, in the }
presence of—

SIGNED for and on behalf of THE STATE OF }
WESTERN AUSTRALIA by the Honourable }
JOHN TREZISE TONKIN, Premier, in the }
presence of—

SIGNED for and on behalf of THE STATE OF }
TASMANIA by the Honourable ERIC ELLIOTT }
REECE, Premier, in the presence of—