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Title:

Statement: Cutback in funds to Australian Heritage Commission

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STATEMENT

from the Premier

August 9, 1976.

Date.....

Embargo.....

State Administration Centre,
Victoria Square, Adelaide,
South Australia 5001
227 2688

CUTBACK IN FUNDS TO AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Efforts to preserve South Australia's heritage would suffer badly because of Federal Government cutbacks in funds and a seemingly deliberate policy of ignoring the smaller States, the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, said today.

The Federal Minister for the Environment, Housing and Community Development, Mr. Newman, announced that no more funds would be provided for programmes under the National Estate and the Australian Heritage Commission for the next two years, despite a clear commitment by the Liberal/National Country Party at the December 1975 election to continue supporting the Australian Heritage Commission.

"Mr. Newman's announcement that the Australian Heritage Commission is to be starved of funds for the next two years is yet another broken election promise of this untrustworthy Federal Government. The list of broken promises relating to the Australian Heritage Commission is already disgracefully long", Mr. Dunstan said.

"South Australia does not have a representative on the Heritage Commission, nor do Queensland or Tasmania. The Federal Government has ignored the smaller States despite a pledge to give States a voice in the Commission and the arbitrary manner in which the membership of the Commission was decided went completely against their public pledges to consult with the States."

Mr. Dunstan said that South Australia, along with every other State, had a representative on the interim committee for the Heritage Commission set up by the former Minister for Urban and Regional Development, Mr. Tom Uren, in 1974.

"South Australia has done well from the funds allocated by that committee and a very large number of local groups have been able to preserve buildings or areas which are essential parts of the Australian heritage.

"For example, work on the restoration of Old Government House at Belair, the external restoration of the Old Customs House at Semaphore, the restoration of Adam Lindsay Gordon's House, "Dingley Dell" at Port



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"The National Trust of Australia (South Australia) has been helped, local councils have been helped and community groups adding to their own local environment have also been helped.

"Altogether South Australia has received almost \$2 million in order to keep our State beautiful and to keep our links with the past.

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