

TEXT OF H.M. THE QUEEN'S SPEECH TO BE GIVEN
AT RECEPTION TO BE HELD AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE
ON MONDAY, 18/2/63

TO BE CHECKED AGAINST DELIVERY

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE DELIVERY

Mr. Prime Minister,

I am delighted to forgive you and your two Parliamentary colleagues for your charming speeches this evening. I am also very happy to note that on this occasion you are all of one mind.

My husband and I are deeply touched by the warmth and kindness of your welcome. Let me say at once that we are both delighted to be back in Australia for the Jubilee celebrations of the Capital City.

As we flew over Canberra this afternoon, I found it difficult to realise that all this has grown up in 50 short years. It is a wonderful achievement and an inspiring sight to see a great and gracious city taking shape almost before one's eyes.

Even more remarkable and more important is that the plant of our ancient, free and democratic institutions has taken root here so firmly and is showing such vigorous independent growth.

The first time I came to Australia everything was new, although not necessarily strange. This time I am looking forward to an even more interesting visit as I shall be able to see many familiar places and old friends. I shall also be able to make comparisons with what I remember of our last visit and I am quite sure that I shall be greatly impressed by the many developments and the progress of the last nine years. In many cases I know what to expect because I follow events in Australia with much interest and admiration. Most impressive has been the rapid growth of a distinctive and independent Australian thought and culture and I am very proud that this has led Australia to play an increasingly important part on the world stage.

Perhaps even more significant for Australians has been the modern pioneering in the far North and North-West. The partnership of science and engineering with man and nature is harnessing precious water, coaxing the land into useful production and building new towns in remote areas. These are the foundations for what I hope will be thriving and prosperous communities in the future and I am looking forward to visiting some of these areas with great interest.

I do not intend that this should be my last visit to Australia and next time I hope I shall see different places and many communities that could not be included this time. Tonight, on my arrival, I want to send greetings to all Australians and particularly to those we shall not be able to see on this occasion.

Thank you again Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. McEwen and Mr. Calwell for your kind words this evening. I pray that Australia will continue to prosper in a happy and peaceful future.
