



PRIME MINISTER

24 Sept.1978

I congratulate Mr. Kerin on his return to the Federal Parliament.

While not detracting from Mr. Kerin's convincing win, the outcome should be seen in perspective.

Werriwa is one of the safest Labor seats in New South Wales and over the past 26 years Mr. Whitlam's primary vote has been as high as 69 percent.

It is blue-ribbon seat for the A.L.P. and they were inevitably assisted by the traditional by-election swing against the Government of the day.

This year the Government has been forced to make some difficult decisions in the long-term interests of the nation.

It has shown it is not prepared to shirk its responsibilities for the sake of short-term political gains.

The Liberal candidate for Werriwa, Mr. Sadler, is to be congratulated for a spirited contest and I now wish him well in his campaigning for the N.S.W. State Elections.