



## PRIME MINISTER

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JOURNALIST: What can you say to an industry that you can't compensate ....?

PM: Well, let me say first of all, that I have greatly appreciated the constructive way in which the representatives of the tourist industry here assembled, have asked to see me today and the spirit in which they've put their position. You mentioned compensation, let me say they haven't asked for compensation and I appreciate that point. But what they have properly asked for is that, as a Government, we should recognise, as we do, the considerable hurt that's been caused to the tourism industry - one of our great industries, one of our great growth industries, in the past and for the future. They have asked that we understand the serious problems that have been caused for the industry generally and, of course, for some particular people in the industry, grievous problems. We do understand that situation and I've responded positively to their request that the Government should look at how, in the post dispute situation, that we can prepare the way for the full restoration of confidence overseas and within this country for this industry. We share, the industry and myself on behalf of the Government, we share the view that Australia remains one of the most attractive tourist destinations for people around the world wanting to have a good holiday. And for people within Australia, it remains a most attractive country in terms of all the tourism opportunities that are there. Now, I have responded positively to their concerns and they are going to put some more detailed proposals to me as to how, together, the Government and the industry, can rebuild and expand further this great industry. I have appreciated very much the opportunity of meeting with them and together pledging ourselves to the rebuilding of this industry.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, given the industry's comments yesterday, I can only assume that one of the pleas they made to you was to get this dispute ended as quickly as possible. The pilots now appear to be saying that 'we're prepared to go flying again as long as there can be negotiations. No strings attached other than that'. Why can't that happen?

PM: Well, I've made quite clear that, as far as the pilots of this country are concerned, the avenue is there in increasing numbers and they're taking that avenue. They are signing up with the airlines. The leadership of the Federation has created the situation now where they have no status, they have no members employed in the industry and those who are signing up have made it quite clear that, as far as they are concerned, they have a very strong view that they want no dealings with the Federation. Let me make it quite clear in saying those things that it is appropriate that pilots should join up now. The airlines want them, we want them back. I've never had any dispute with individual pilots, it's with their leadership. I want to see as many of the pilots who've served this country back there doing it again within an airline industry which is going to be a very much more efficient industry and that, by example, let me make the further point that it will be my clear expectation that when those pilots do sign up in that way, which will accelerate the restoration of a full airline industry in this country and that's going to happen. If they sign up quickly then that's going to accelerate the restoration of a full airline industry. In those circumstances, of course, there will be a place for an organisation of pilots. We're not looking at a situation of de-unionising pilots, but because the Federation has instructed their people to resign they have no members in the industry. The way is open now for pilots to rejoin on their individual contracts and, of course, as that happens, looking to the future there will obviously be some organisation to represent the pilots.

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