



PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF DOORSTOP ON DEPARTURE FOR TURKEY, RAAF BASE FAIRBAIRN - 22 APRIL 1990

E & OE - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, an emotional time for you the next week or so?

PM: For everyone I think.

JOURNALIST: How important is it that the Government, the Opposition and the Diggers are going to be there?

PM: I think it's the indication of the way in which all Australians, irrespective of their politics or their age, understand the significance of Anzac. And it's something which I think all Australians now are coming to appreciate was fundamental in the formation of the Australian nation and an understanding of ourselves as one nation. And although it was a military defeat, it was the occasion of an exhibition of unbelievable heroism and determination by those young men who were prepared to go across the world and lay down their lives on the first occasion as Australians.

JOURNALIST: How do you think you're going to feel during the service?

PM: I think like everyone we'll all feel very emotional about it. You wouldn't be human if you didn't.

JOURNALIST: On another issue, the floods have been very bad in Queensland and NSW. Is the Government going to give any assistance in this area?

PM: I'll be looking for a detailed report on it. I probably will get that while I'm away. But the normal provisions will come into effect, the natural disaster provisions in which we co-operate with the States to meet the problems for the people who've been devastated in this way. I take this opportunity of extending my great sympathy to them.

JOURNALIST: What's your reaction to the Coroner's report on the state of the Pacific Highway and the need for?

PM: That will be studied by our people. We indicated during the election campaign our preparedness to make additional money available. There is under the existing provisions, provided NSW is prepared to co-operate, the capacity to extend a fair amount of additional money in that area. But clearly a detailed examination will need to be undertaken of the report.

JOURNALIST: So that the two cents a litre extra that Mr Willis suggested has been ruled out?

PM: I'm not going into that. I'm saying we'll look at the report. But I've indicated that, much earlier than the report, we'd undertaken the availability of additional money for expenditure in that area.

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