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PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP SYDNEY CASINO

The decision by the New South Wales Government to build the new casino in Pymont is regrettable and I call on Premier Fahey to reconsider this move in light of the widespread criticism it has attracted.

A major casino has the potential to significantly benefit Sydney through increased tourism, more jobs and a wider range of entertainment. It could help make Sydney an even more lively city.

But, the casino has to be the right building in the right location. The middle of Pymont is patently the wrong location for such a large structure.

The decision to site the Casino in Pymont runs counter to the character of the area and to the finer textured development that we are trying to achieve under the Commonwealth's Better Cities Program.

The Better Cities Program for Ultimo/Pymont also aims to reduce traffic congestion and pollution and increase the residential population of the area in a way sympathetic to its rich heritage.

Today's press reported that the Sydney City Council intends to challenge the plan for the casino in court. I trust that the parties will work towards a satisfactory resolution that will be of lasting benefit to Sydney.

**CANBERRA
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