



PRIME MINISTER

33/95

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

RETIREMENT OF THE HON ALAN GRIFFITHS MP

Alan Griffiths made a significant and valuable contribution to the Labor Government, to the Cabinet, and to Parliament during his service as the Member for Maribyrnong since 1983.

During his period as a Minister and senior member of the Cabinet, Alan Griffiths worked tirelessly towards the development of good public policy, especially in the areas of forest policy, oil and gas development, tourism, and industry policy.

As he has acknowledged today, the allegations which led to his resignation from the Ministry caused damage to his political reputation. It has always been my expectation and hope that the current inquiry into those matters will clear Alan Griffiths of any wrongdoing.

Alan Griffiths would have had sufficient support among his Parliamentary colleagues to return to the Ministry in due course. I would certainly have welcomed his return to Cabinet.

Now that Alan Griffiths has taken a personal decision to retire from Parliament at the next election, I congratulate him on his contribution to public life, and wish him well in his new career.

**CANBERRA
22 APRIL 1995**