



PRIME MINISTER

The Opposition Leader quoted last night in his National Broadcast from the Prime Minister's Report to the Nation. The relevant passage from Mr. Whitlam's text was as follows:

"Let me emphasise as forcefully as I can that here the scientific knowledge does exist. The technology does exist. The scientific knowledge and technology have been applied to the problem of waste. The technology is known."

This is just not true. Let me emphasise that as forcefully as I can: at most, there are disposal processes which have only - and I quote the words of the Minister for Environment in Parliament -

"proved to be technically feasible at pilot plants"

The quotation was selective. The Prime Minister's full comment, with the omitted section underlined, was as follows:

"Let me emphasise as forcefully as I can that here the scientific knowledge does exist. The technology does exist. The scientific knowledge and technology have been applied to the problem of waste. The technology is known. It has worked on a trial basis, and plans are now under way to adopt it on a much larger scale."

DAVID BARNETT
5 September 1977