



PRIME MINISTER

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SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE RALLY

On Saturday, Australian men and women from all walks of life will make a decision that will determine the path our great country will take for decades to come.

The alternatives are clear. Will you choose our policies of development and confidence, our policies of success? Will you reject Labor's policies of futility and fear, their policies of failure?

This election is a turning point in our maturing as a nation. Australia is poised to move into the 80's and beyond with a new found confidence, a new spirit, a new sense of security, a new sense of national purpose.

The first stage of the job we were elected to do has been done. We are now ready to stride into a new era of prosperity and development.

We promised we would cut the inflation we inherited. Inflation is down to 9% and it's falling. We promised to control Government spending. We have halved Labor's \$4,500 million deficit. We promised to revive incentive and restore fair reward for achievement. We have substantially cut the taxes of every Australian. It's now worth working overtime again. We promised to get this great country of ours moving again. Industry is starting to invest again, our natural resources are being opened up once more, and there is new found confidence in our manufacturing industry. \$6,000 million dollars worth of projects are under way or ready to go and many billions of dollars more are in the pipeline.

We all have to work together to ensure that we build on the firm foundations we have laid. The future is before us, a future which promises work and prosperity for all Australians.

This promise will be realised under a Liberal Government which has the only policies to keep our country growing. Policies which are demonstrably succeeding, policies that will guarantee Australia's growth, development and the creation of new jobs. We will push inflation down to between six and eight percent by next June. We will keep industry investing, we will keep interest rates falling, down as much as two percent over the next twelve months.

That's a saving of \$520 a year, \$10 a week to the average young couple buying a new home.

Most importantly we will get unemployment down. We've got the real answer to unemployment; investment - that means jobs, getting interest rates down - that means jobs, restraining Government expenditure - that means jobs.

Because of our prudence in Government spending, we can afford more tax cuts for all Australian taxpayers. They will start on the first of February, just two months away. ~~They will increase people's~~ income and inject \$26.7 million a week into the economy.

Because we have reduced inflation the tax cuts will create more jobs. Because people can spend more, our factories will have to produce more. There will be a demand for more employees. That is why, from next February, unemployment will fall and keep on falling. We are determined to foster Australian industry's new found vitality.

This Government buys Australian, not the cheapest foreign products our predecessors favoured. We will give export sales fresh impetus with a new five-year export incentive scheme. We will provide special help to Australian businesses competing for overseas projects. We will actively promote more processing in Australia of our basic raw materials. To small businessmen we will make finance more readily available.

Unlike the Labor Party, we are giving Australian industry, Australian jobs and Australian workers, the protection they need. We have increased protection for industries employing over a quarter of a million Australian men and women. Our swift and effective action has meant the survival of industries such as the apparel, textiles and footwear industries, industries employing 120,000 people.

Last week, the Labor Party refused point blank to support our action. They turned their backs on 120,000 working Australians, 80% of whom are women and many of whom are migrants.

The Premier of South Australia and Mr. Hawke support the firm stand we have taken. But they were over-ruled. Over-ruled by the very men, Mr. Whitlam and Mr. Hayden, who now parade concern for the unemployed.

It is Labor that is the Party of unemployment. It was Mr. Whitlam, who, when he was Prime Minister, put tens of thousands of Australians out of work through his notorious, indiscriminate 25% across the board tariff cuts.

In May 1974, there were 1,357,400 Australians employed in manufacturing. By May 1975, just one year later, that number had fallen to 1,250,100 a drop of 107,300.

Mr. Whitlam made unemployment a deliberate, calculated part of Government policy. He went and cut tariffs despite the fact that he was warned by a top level report that such a slash in tariffs would throw tens of thousands out of work.

Now he wants to do it again. Labor's tariff policy would cause mass unemployment. Labor's intentions towards the clothing, textile and footwear industries are already abundantly clear.

Which other industries has Labor marked for the guillotine? Is it the wood, wood products and furniture industries with employment of 73,000? Paper and paper products and printing, employing 97,000? Basic chemicals and related products, 56,000? Appliances and electric equipment, 31,000? Industrial machinery and scientific equipment, 60,000?

The Executive Director of the Apparel Manufacturers has said: "No industry could be certain of survival if a Labor Party ... came to power". And he's right.

No wonder a recent Victorian survey reveals the overwhelming conviction of manufacturers that they would suffer adversely, that things would be worse under a Labor Government. And that conviction was strongest among small businessmen. Stronger even than in 1975.

Labor would harm business. Its commitment to reducing tariffs would create unemployment. Its commitment to higher taxes would reduce demand and create unemployment. Labor wants a "crash" spending programme that would involve \$800 million in six months. That's an annual rate of \$1,600 million a year. And they have other promises worth billions of dollars they haven't even costed.

All this would more than double the deficit, unleash inflation once again, and increase interest rates. This could only have one result, it would create more unemployment.

This is not just guess work. We know from bitter experience that this is what would occur. For the ten years before Labor last came to office average unemployment was 1.3%. Within three years, Labor had increase unemployment to 5.4% of the workforce. In one year Labor increased unemployment by 157%, by almost 200,000 people.

Labor has said it would repeal our February first tax cuts. These tax cuts are fair. People on average earnings of \$10,000 a year will pay a marginal rate of tax of only 32 cents in the dollar. Under the Hayden scales it was 45 cents. From February first, it will be 32 cents right up to \$16,000.

These tax cuts are substantial. Over 90% of taxpayers will pay less than one quarter of their incomes in tax. These tax cuts are a significant social reform. A quarter of a million low income earners, tens of thousands of pensioners, widows, and students, with taxable incomes under \$3,750 a year, will no longer pay any tax at all.

These are the people Labor forget. To pay for abolition of payroll tax, Labor would have to increase personal taxes by \$850 million this year, \$1,900 million next. Only the present members of the Labor Party would seriously put forward a plan to rip \$850 million this year and \$1,900 million next year out of the hands of the working men and women of Australia. And use it to pay big and profitable companies. No jobs would be created. The companies have said so.

But, Utah would get	\$2 million
C.R.A.	\$10 million
B.H.P.	\$33 million
M.I.M.	\$4.5 million
C.S.R.	\$8 million
Bank of N.S.W.	\$11 million
Ford	\$7 million
A.C.I.	\$11 million
Dunlop	\$11/13 million
General Motors	\$10 million.

The working men and women of Australia won't vote for this. They won't vote for any of Labor's policy proposals. They will vote for the Government's positive programmes which meet the needs of all Australians, and which cut their taxes, not increase them.

Our tax reforms have not ended yet. All estates passing between husband and wife, parent and child will be free of federal estate and gift duty as from November 31st, the day of my policy speech.

Over the life of the next Parliament both these taxes will be entirely abolished.

Labor knows its support is eroding, that's why it has mounted a campaign of fear in this last week of the election campaign. The Labor Party is desperate and is trying to frighten Australia out of thinking about the issues by talking about massive social division and confrontation, by talking about suicide and crime increasing, by showing a disgraceful advertisement on the uranium question which shows a photograph of an infant sitting beside a hand grenade. I am certain this will offend all Australians. A political party can sink no lower than to use Australian babies in political propaganda.

I do not believe that these public relations terror tactics will work. Australians know that Labor created unemployment in this country through their policies of extravagance and tariff cuts. They know that Mr. Whitlam is the unemployment expert. They know Labor would do it all again.

Australians are coming to know the hypocrisy of Labor's stand on uranium, the fact that Mr. Whitlam signed an agreement to mine and export uranium when he was in power. And Australians are coming to know of the hypocrisy of Mr. Dunstan, the person the Labor Party has put on television to oppose uranium development. They're learning that Mr. Dunstan has secretly granted exploration rights for uranium on Floumbago Station, an Aboriginal sacred and historic area, that he has encouraged the mining and stockpiling of uranium at the Roxby Downs Mine and that he has licensed a foreign company to explore for uranium just 30 kilometres north and south of Adelaide.

Ladies and gentlemen: The Government's strategy to increase jobs is working. Total employment has risen by 180,000 since we came to office. Only through this Government will our industries fully recover, and only through that recovery can we get unemployment down permanently.

That recovery is now underway. A new period of stability and fuller employment is within our grasp. It is an opportunity that might not come again for a very long time.

While our economic recovery is underway, we are helping those looking for work to improve their skills and thus be equipped to take new jobs as they arise. Already 120,000 people have been helped by our training and job assistance schemes, and the number is steadily growing.

We are making sufficient money available to ensure that no-one eligible for any of these schemes will be turned away.

As I announced in my policy speech, we will expand the very successful education programme for unemployed youth, and extend the coverage of the NEAT scheme. We will spend \$50 million over and above existing commitment to overhaul outmoded inner-city technical colleges.

In addition, we are tackling the more fundamental problem of improving and adapting the education of our children to meet more closely the requirements of the Australian job market. The Williams Inquiry has been appointed to examine this vexed issue. And we will act swiftly and decisively when the Report is received.

We have a constructive, comprehensive and coherent strategy to provide more jobs for more Australians. It is a strategy which inspires confidence, not Labor's doom and gloom.

It is a strategy founded on the fundamental assertion that we can make Australia grow and prosper again, and this is something in which all Australians can share.

We will improve the quality of the essential services which the Government provides. We will help the State railways by upgrading the national mainline system. We will expand existing programmes of support for urban transport, Sydney's train and bus services can benefit from this. We will join the States in a national water resources programme which will boost city and country water supplies. A study will be made of the sharing of electricity supplies in the south-east Australian region, and we will provide a new deal for telephone subscribers by reducing charges for off-peak long distance telephone calls to 40% of the standard rate.

This Government offers Australia a return to prosperity, a higher standard of living, a continuation of efficient, consistent, coherent policies which have provided Australians with new hope and a better future. We will press ahead with our programmes which are now so clearly succeeding. We will keep this momentum in motion, that will keep Australia on the move.

In the next few years, Australia can become a better nation. Through a sense of national unity of purpose, a determination by all Australians that we shall succeed, we can make a better life for all Australians.

As a concerned and caring community, we can provide effective help to those disadvantaged and in need, and add dignity and hope where previously there was none.

As a people conscious of our responsibilities to other nations around the world, we can play a leading role in developing a safer world, a less selfish world, a world that learns to use its natural resources as a force for good and not for evil.

We can do all this, it is now within our grasp. The opportunity is now there for us to grow and develop into a stronger, richer, more mature society.

I have no doubt that the Australian people are ready and willing to play their part. My commitment to you tonight is that this Government, this Liberal/National Party Government, stands ready to lead Australia to this better future.

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