



**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR PRESS

27 September 1979

THE RESIGNATION OF THE RT. HON. IAN SINCLAIR, M.P.

I have received a letter from the Rt. Hon. Ian Sinclair, M.P. resigning his portfolio as Minister for Primary Industry, and resigning also his position as Leader of the House of Representatives. I shall recommend to His Excellency that Mr. Sinclair's resignation from his ministerial portfolio be accepted.

It is a matter of great regret to me and to the Government that Mr. Sinclair has felt obliged to take this step while any action that may flow from the report commissioned by the N.S.W. Government is unresolved. He does so, I know, out of consideration for his ministerial and Party colleagues.

Mr. Sinclair has served the Government and his country with distinction and dedication and his contribution will be greatly missed.

I shall ask His Excellency to swear the Honourable Peter Nixon as Minister for Primary Industry in addition to his present portfolio as Minister for Transport.

I have appointed Mr. Viner as Leader of the House of Representatives.

Until Mr. Peacock returns from overseas, Mr. Mackellar will be Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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# Minister for Primary Industry

Deputy Leader of the National Country Party of Australia  
Leader of the House                      Member for New England

27 September 1979.

The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser, C.H., M.P.  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA.              A.C.T.

My dear Prime Minister,

The Finnane Report tabled in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly yesterday makes a number of assertions about my actions in connection with private companies with which my family is associated.

The blatant political character of the investigation instigated by the New South Wales Attorney-General and heightened by the appointment of a prominent member of the Australian Labor Party as Special Investigator, seriously call into question the validity and integrity of many of these assertions.

Seldom has a person in my position been subjected to such a well publicised and orchestrated campaign of personal scrutiny, supposedly in the public interest.

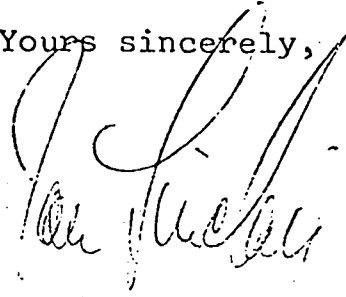
Throughout the course of the investigation, I have been subjected publicly to continuing attacks on my personal integrity and propriety. As every fair minded person will appreciate, until now I have been completely unable to respond effectively. Now and as before, I vehemently deny any improper activity relating to these matters.

Nonetheless, I am conscious of the difficulties in which the Report places the Government. Accordingly, I now tender my resignation as Leader of the House and Minister for Primary Industry, confident that this course will best enable me to counter the false assertions made against me.

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I am entitled to expect that any matters still outstanding should be concluded promptly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ian Sinclair', written in dark ink.

(Ian Sinclair)



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

27 SEP 1973

*To Hon. T. J. Minchin*

With very sincere regret I shall recommend to His Excellency the Governor-General that he accept your resignation as Minister for Primary Industry.

You have acted in this manner, I know, from the highest motives of consideration for the Government. Your ministerial colleagues appreciate this, and appreciate also how painful this decision must be for you.

I accept your resignation also as Leader of the House of Representatives.

You have served the Government and the country with great distinction and dedication, and I should like to record the Government's and my own appreciation of your loyalty and your service.

Yours sincerely,

(Malcolm Fraser)

The Rt. Hon. Ian Sinclair, M.P.,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA ACT 2600