



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

FRIDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 1983

### OIL BAN LIFTING RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation by the ACTU tactics committee that oil industry unions should agree to lift bans and limitations is very welcome.

I am pleased that there has been such a prompt and positive response to the call which I made yesterday to take off these ban and limitations.

If they had stayed in place, the country would have ground to a halt. The tactics adopted were designed to strangle industrial activity. Had the Government not issued its challenge in the way it did, many companies would have suffered so severely, some could have closed their doors completely. Other would have had to stand down employees who would not be usefully employed because of the lack of fuel.

I would also remind Australians of the high wages paid to strikers in the oil industry - the key people being the 15 striking electricians on strike until Monday who are earning up to \$30,000 a year.

I also hope that acceptance of the recommendation will be followed by union acceptance of the verdict of the people of Australia in relation to the importance of carrying through the wage pause. As a consequence they would then be obliged by the decision of the Arbitration Commission which they are now so determined to break.

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