



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

25 FEBRUARY 1983

AUSTRALIA NEEDS SOME ANSWERS FROM MR HAWKE

Australians have a right to some answers from Mr Hawke.

If Australians are to make a proper judgment about issues in this election, they will need better than the waffle, evasion and side-stepping that we get everyday from the man who seeks to claim the mantle of Government.

He has refused to answer questions about the detail on the cost of his promises.

He ducks and evades a whole range of matters relating to his Prices and Incomes Policy. He won't say who will determine profit levels and acceptable levels of income for the self-employed.

He is imprecise about how he will use capital gains tax. He hasn't said what additional transactions will be taxed to ensure what he calls "effective application of the existing capital gains tax". Or is he saying that the Tax Commissioner is not applying the existing law honestly and diligently?

On uranium, Mr Hawke is as imprecise and evasive as ever. He contradicts his Deputy and his uranium spokesman and pretends that the question of uranium development in South Australia still has to be looked at yet in the end it is dragged from him that well, yes, he would have to implement ALP policy.

It is time that Mr Hawke gave some clear and precise answers to important policy questions. He is no longer on the stage. He is seeking the Prime Ministership.