



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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ELECTORATE TALK

We are in the last days of a very important election campaign. I want to talk to you tonight about some issues that are fundamental to the choice to be made on March 5. The impact of the drought, the severe world recession and irresponsible wage demands have made recent years difficult, yet your Government has responded with strength and determination.

We have a record of positive achievement across every front. We have achieved new strengths in our alliances and our position in the world. We have achieved reforms by cutting taxes, substantially increasing family allowances and providing significant rebates on home loan repayments. Recently we have embarked upon two major projects - a Bicentennial Roads Programme and a National Water Resources Programme, part of our vision of achievement for Australia.

A recent achievement has been to put in place the wages pause. Our arguments persuaded all eight Governments to support it. Only Federal Labor and their ACTU masters opposed this programme, which will lead not only to economic recovery but also free \$300 million to provide jobs for young Australians, the older unemployed and welfare housing.

We are a Government not only of achievement but of promise. We have promised a new deal for young Australians, with jobs especially in conservation projects. Lower tax rates, more finance and help with advanced technology promise a bright future for small business, new child care programmes and expansion in pensioner health benefits promise more security for families.

We promise major reforms in industrial relations. Secret ballots and reforms to strikes in essential services, promise security and sanity, especially compared with Labor's pledges of more power to the unions. My Government has a record of achievement - a commitment to the future based upon this.

In difficult times Australians have always been prepared to face up to making tough and difficult decisions. They know there are no quick and easy solutions.

We know we cannot overcome this problem by a simple, crude policy of spend, spend, spend. Yet that is precisely what Labor is determined to do.

In order to get that money they will have to compete with you for funds. The money you need to build or buy your own home, to develop your small business and increase employment would go instead to Labor. The money which our dynamic industries need to expand, to compete, to create jobs - it would go instead to Labor.

In addition to depriving you of funds, in order to find 4,000 million dollars more than is already being spent, Labor policies will mean much higher interest rates on what money is left - higher interest rates on your home loan, higher interest rates which will prevent industry from growing and employing more people, higher interest rates which will hurt all Australians.

We will not let that happen. We will make sure that money is available not for big-spending governments, but for big-thinking Australians.

The disaster of Labor's policies is so much worse when you look at Labor's deal with the unions. Most Australians agree that the unions already have too much power. For selfish and often irresponsible ends unions continually disrupt the lives of decent Australians paralysing transport systems, drying up petrol supplies, costing you money, costing Australia jobs.

Yet on March 5 the former head of the A.C.T.U. is asking you to vote for more union power. The so-called prices and incomes deal dictated by the unions and accepted by the Labor Party must be exposed. This shameful deal gives the unions a power of veto over the policies of a Labor Government. Labor Government policies must be agreed to by the unions - that's what the deal says. It means Labor would provide policies to suit the unions regardless of what's best for you. This deal commits Labor, in their own words, to being "accommodating and supportive" of the unions. That means no less than a Labor Government accommodating - agreeing to union demands and being supportive of the unions even when they ought to be supportive of you, the people of Australia who are the constant victims of union militancy.

This deal provides a blueprint for socialist control of Australia. Every business big or small is to be regulated. They say "comprehensive" and "closely monitored" interventionist policies are necessary to achieve "a transition of the economy into a planned framework".

The lives and incomes in their words of shopkeepers, self-employed builders and tradesmen are to be controlled. Government and unions under this deal will even be given the right to set profit levels. As if this were not enough, the deal gives unions this same right of veto over policies for your health care, over your children's education, over pensions and superannuation and over immigration, which was a particular target of the last Labor government.

But most despicable of all, this deal leaves no room for you to really influence your own future. It is an exclusive deal between Labor and militant unions, a deal in which you have no say.

My government will never permit this to happen. We propose to bring the militant unions back under the control of the law, responsible to their own members and to the people - all the people - of Australia.

On March 5 you will have a choice - you can elect the men and women who will actually govern Australia, or you can elect a party which will be the instrument of militant unions. Australians don't want union dominance and socialist control. They want the freedom to work, to strive, to succeed, to prosper, to be rewarded for effort. We will provide a government which values those endeavours and which seeks to promote the talents of a great people in a free society.

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