



PRIME MINISTER

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR R.J.L. HAWKE AT LAUNCHING
OF NEW VICTA MOWER, SYDNEY, 12 AUGUST 1983.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

IT IS MY PLEASURE TODAY TO LAUNCH OFFICIALLY THE NEW VICTA
VORTEX LAWN MOWER.

AND WHILE I'M OBVIOUSLY NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF PRODUCT
ENDORSEMENT, ITS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE THAT AN AUSTRALIAN
PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH A VERY
AUSTRALIAN NAME AND VERY AUSTRALIAN PRODUCT.

AND ESPECIALLY A PRIME MINISTER WHO REPRESENTS A MELBOURNE
ELECTORATE.

AND LEST ANYONE FORGET - I AM STILL THE MEMBER FOR WILLS!

IT'S A FACT OFTEN REMARKED UPON - BUT STILL A REMARKABLE
FACT - THAT, DESPITE OUR NATIONAL SELF-IMAGE, WE ARE THE
MOST URBANISED NATION ON EARTH. A HIGHER PROPORTION OF US
LIVE IN CITIES AND BIG CENTRES THAN ANY OTHER PEOPLE
ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

BUT IT IS NOT SO OFTEN REALISED THAT WE ARE ALSO THE MOST
SUBURBANISED PEOPLE ON EARTH.

WHILE MORE OF US LIVE IN CITIES, FEWER OF US LIVE IN THE CITY.

AND NOT ONLY THAT - WE HAVE THE LARGEST SUBURBS WITH THE LOWEST DENSITY OF POPULATION ON EARTH.

AND THAT MEANS, ON AVERAGE, WE HAVE THE BIGGEST BACK YARDS OR FRONT GARDENS ON EARTH.

AND THAT'S WHERE THE VICTA LAWNMOWER COMES IN.

VICTA IS AN AUSTRALIAN TRADITION. BUT IN FACT THIS PARTICULAR VERSION - THE VORTEX - IS REALLY SOMETHING OF A DEPARTURE FROM THE AUSSIE TRADITION.

BECAUSE THIS IS TO BE A QUIET LAWNMOWER - WHICH FOR SUBURBAN AUSTRALIA SEEMS ALMOST A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS!

SO AS AN AUSTRALIAN, A SUBURBANITE, A NEIGHBOUR, HOW COULD I DO OTHER THAN WISH IT WELL.

BUT SERIOUSLY, I DO WISH THIS PROJECT WELL AS AN EXAMPLE OF AUSTRALIAN ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION - AND, IN PARTICULAR, AN EXAMPLE OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND A GOVERNMENT AGENCY.

I UNDERSTAND CSIRO PROVIDED ASSISTANCE IN THE MASSIVE TASK OF DEVELOPING AND TESTING THIS PRODUCT.

AND I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEW POWER TORQUE ENGINE WAS
SUBJECTED TO OVER 50,000 HOURS OF TESTING IN ITS COMBINED
DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING PROGRAM.

IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES WHEN MANY SECTORS OF MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRY ARE EXPERIENCING ACUTE PROBLEMS IT IS HEARTENING TO
SEE COMPANIES LIKE VICTA LIMITED WHICH OPT FOR INNOVATION
AND ARE PREPARED TO SET A STAKE IN THE FUTURE.

MY GOVERNMENT IS WORKING TOWARDS THE CREATION OF AN
ENVIRONMENT WITHIN WHICH EFFICIENT, INNOVATIVE FIRMS CAN
PROSPER AND EXPAND. THIS IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO MEET AND
REVERSE THE DISASTROUS DECLINE IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE PERIOD
BEFORE THIS YEAR'S ELECTION.

A FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH EFFICIENT AND INNOVATIVE
COMPANIES CAN PLAN FOR THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE AND
CERTAINTY, HAS TWO PARTS: STABLE AND EFFECTIVE INDUSTRY
POLICY; AND BUOYANT DEMAND FOR PRODUCTS WITHIN AUSTRALIA.
WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON BOTH FRONTS.

OUR INDUSTRY POLICY HAS EMPHASISED CONTINUITY AND CERTAINTY
IN POLICY, OVER THE LONG PERIODS NECESSARY FOR INVESTMENT TO
YIELD THE PROFITS THAT ARE ITS JUSTIFICATION. BUSINESS
FACES ENOUGH UNCERTAINTY WITHOUT GOVERNMENT ADDING TO IT.

ON ENSURING THAT THERE IS BUOYANT DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTS, OUR MAJOR TASK SINCE TAKING OFFICE HAS BEEN TO REPLACE THE STAGNATION AND DECLINE IN THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY WITH SUSTAINED GROWTH.

THE BUDGET THAT WILL BE INTRODUCED TO THE PARLIAMENT NEXT TUESDAY WEEK BY THE TREASURER, PAUL KEATING, WILL SET THE SCENE FOR A YEAR OF SIGNIFICANT GROWTH.

THE DEEP-SEATED PROBLEMS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY CANNOT BE SOLVED IN ONE YEAR, OR EVEN TWO OR THREE. BUT THIS YEAR WE WILL MAKE A WORTHWHILE START.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO USING EXPANSIONARY FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES TO GETTING AUSTRALIA MOVING AGAIN. THE PRICES AND INCOMES ACCORD ALLOW US TO GO FURTHER ON EXPANSION WITHOUT INFLATIONARY CONSEQUENCES THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE POSSIBLE.

THE STIMULUS TO BE PROVIDED BY OUR EXPANSIONARY FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES WILL BE CAREFULLY CONTROLLED, TO PREVENT FIERCE COMPETITION FOR FUNDS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INVESTORS. SUCH A COURSE WOULD THREATEN PRIVATE SECTOR RECOVERY BY PUSHING INTEREST RATES HIGHER THAN THEY WOULD OTHERWISE BE.

THIS YEAR WE HAVE JUDGED THAT A BUDGET DEFICIT UP TO ABOUT \$8.5 BILLION WILL PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL STIMULUS TO GROWTH, WHILE AVOIDING EXCESSIVE PRESSURES ON FINANCIAL MARKETS.

AS THE ECONOMY EXPANDS IN THE YEAR AHEAD, WE EXPECT PRIVATE INVESTMENT TO RECOVER FROM THE LOW LEVELS OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR. THIS MEANS THAT WE WILL NEED TO REDUCE THE GOVERNMENT'S BORROWING IN 1984-85 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

HOLDING THE BUDGET DEFICIT TO \$8.5 BILLION THIS YEAR, AND BRINGING IT DOWN IN FUTURE, REQUIRES FIRM COMMITMENT TO LIMITING THE GROWTH IN OUTLAYS, AND TO MAINTAINING THE TAXATION BASE.

FORTUNATELY FOR THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIA, THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE RECOGNISE THAT FIRM MEASURES ARE REQUIRED IN THE INTERESTS OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY. THERE WAS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF THIS IN THE REACTION OF MOST AUSTRALIANS TO THE MAY ECONOMIC STATEMENT.

IF WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST, AND IF THOSE WHO ARE COMFORTABLY OFF IN AUSTRALIA ARE PREPARED TO BE REASONABLE IN THE DEMANDS THEY MAKE FOR HIGHER INCOMES AND BETTER SERVICES, WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE 1983-84 THE FIRST YEAR OF A LONG PERIOD OF GROWTH.

THAT WILL HELP ALL AUSTRALIANS, INCLUDING OWNERS AND WORKERS IN FIRMS SELLING MOTOR MOWERS.

IN THE DYNAMIC WORLD OF BUSINESS, INNOVATIONS OF THE SORT EPITOMISED BY THIS NEW MOWER REPRESENT THE ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH FIRMS MUST STRIVE FOR IN ORDER TO ENSURE THEIR COMPETITIVENESS.

I BELIEVE THAT VICTA IS AN EXAMPLE OF A COMPANY THAT HAS MET
THESE CHALLENGES. WITH THE RELEASE OF THIS NEW LAWNMOWER
TODAY WE ARE WITNESSING THE SAME SPIRIT OF INNOVATION AND
ENTERPRISE EXERCISED BY THE FOUNDER OF VICTA LTD. NEPVYN
VICTOR RICHARDSON.