



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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## JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PREMIER OF VICTORIA

The Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, and the Victorian Premier, Mr Cain, today applauded the ACTU decision over the BLF picket line at the MCG.

"The decision is the only proper course for the ACTU because the BLF has flouted the industrial law of this country and the rules of the peak union council.

"The conduct of the BLF on the picket line has been disgraceful and contrary to the very spirit of trade unionism in this country."

The Prime Minister and Mr Cain were notified by the ACTU Secretary, Mr Kelty, late today that the ACTU officers had decided to formally advise the TWU that the picket on the MCG lights project was not authorised.

Mr Kelty said in his telex to the TWU that:

"The ACTU officers have today decided to formally advise that the BLF picket in respect to the MCG lights is not authorised and accordingly the ACTU does not expect unions to recognise it.

"This decision has been made on the grounds that:

- (a) the BLF did not follow ACTU policy in respect to picketing; and
- (b) the BLF has advised on more than one occasion that it is not prepared to follow ACTU policy in respect to demarcation in relation to this site."

Mr Hawke and Mr Cain discussed the issue today and they have fully endorsed the ACTU's action.

"It is our fervent hope that the BLF will now withdraw its picket and allow those unionists who have been awarded the work on the lights to go about their duties .

"Clearly, the picket has no support from any unions affiliated with the ACTU .

"Mr Gallagher should now apply his own oft-quoted dictum and 'cop it sweet'."