



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

18 NOVEMBER 1985

The Federal Government has appointed Mr Jim Kirk, AO, as Chairman of the Australian Bicentennial Authority.

Mr Kirk will take up his appointment immediately.

The Government is delighted that Mr Kirk has agreed to accept the position.

Mr Kirk brings to the Authority a wealth of experience in the business community both in Australia and overseas. Mr Kirk, the former Chairman and Chief Executive of Esso Australia Ltd, is a leading Australian who has had a long and distinguished career in the development of the Australian oil industry.

The Minister Assisting on Bicentennial matters, Mr Cohen, and I look forward to a close and rewarding relationship with the new Chairman.

Mr Kirk will, in the near future, be considering the appointment of a new Chief Executive of the Australian Bicentennial Authority.

I have discussed Mr Kirk's appointment with the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Howard, and he has given his full support to the decision.

All Australians can look forward with confidence to the future and to the development of a program of diverse celebrations to be enjoyed by everyone in the community in 1988.

I would also like to express the Government's appreciation to Mr John Utz, AO, for the valuable contribution he made to the Authority during his period as interim Chairman.