



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

10 February 1986

The Prime Minister announced that the Governor-General in Council had today approved the following Public Service appointments.

Mr M.H. Codd, formerly Secretary, Department of Community Services, has been appointed Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Mr Codd has had extensive experience in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet where he worked as a Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary during the period 1978-1981. He has also been Secretary, Department of Employment and Industrial Relations and Chairman of the Industries Assistance Commission.

Mr Codd replaces Sir Geoffrey Yeend, AC, CBE, whose prospective retirement from the Service was announced by the Prime Minister last December.

Mr G.E. Rees, Deputy Secretary, Department of Community Services, will be Acting Secretary of that Department until a permanent appointment is made.

Mr R.M. Taylor, formerly Secretary, Department of Transport, has been appointed Secretary, Department of Aviation in place of Mr C.W.N. Freeland.

Mr Freeland has been appointed Secretary, Department of Transport in place of Mr Taylor.

Mr G.L. Miller, Director of the Economic Planning Advisory Council Secretariat, has been appointed Secretary, Department of Primary Industry. Mr Miller was a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Primary Industry prior to becoming Director of the EPAC Secretariat in 1983. An announcement will be made later on the assignment of Mr L.P. Duthie, formerly Secretary of the Department of Primary Industry.

Mr D.W. Challen will be Acting Director of EPAC until a permanent appointment is made. The position will be advertised immediately.

Mr E.M.W. Visbord, OBE, formerly Deputy Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, has been appointed Secretary, Department of Employment and Industrial Relations. Mr Visbord has had extensive experience in the economic and financial fields in both the Treasury and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Dr M.S. Keating, Secretary of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, is to be Secretary-designate of the Department of Finance and will take up his position as Secretary in approximately three months time, succeeding Mr I. Castles, OBE. In the interim Dr Keating will be available as an adviser to the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations.

Mr Castles, who has been the Secretary of the Department of Finance for more than seven years, has made it known to the Government that he would welcome the opportunity of moving to another suitable position at an appropriate time. Mr Castles' placement will be announced in due course. In the meantime, he will continue as Secretary, Department of Finance.

TELEX TO MEMBERS OF EPAC

DIRECTOR OF EPAC

The Government has decided that the present Director of EPAC, Mr Geoff Miller, is to be appointed Secretary of the Department of Primary Industry. In advising you of this decision, I would like to explain the particular circumstances that have led us with some reluctance to end his present association with EPAC.

As you know, the rural sector is going through a particularly difficult period. Consequently the Government must take steps to ensure that rural policy and the administration of Government services to farmers are managed efficiently so as to help the rural sector recover and position it to continue to contribute in a significant way to national economic growth and export performance. As a former Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (and incidentally a former "Man of the Year" in Australian Agriculture) and as a former Deputy Secretary of the Department, Mr Miller has extensive experience of economic issues and of administration in rural affairs.

Given the importance of national economic policy in relation to the rural sector, Mr Miller's EPAC experience will also be of considerable benefit, both in explaining the nature of Government economic policies clearly in rural policy discussions and in transmitting rural views on national economic issues to the Government.

In taking this decision, I have had to give full weight to the importance of the work being done in EPAC and to the substantially improved output from the Office in recent times. I believe that Mr Miller has got the Office to the stage of producing a good supply of top-rate papers for Council's consideration and broader public discussion. That success is reflected in the series of recently published Council papers and in the extensive media coverage of many important economic issues being considered by EPAC.

Nevertheless, the Office's morale and continuing capacity to maintain this high standard are both matters of fine balance. This is particularly so given that a number of staff are contract employees. It is therefore, most important we, as a Council, pay particular attention to reinforcing the good work that our staff are now doing in the period between Mr Miller's departure early this week and the appointment of successor.

Mr Don Challen, one of the Office's Chief Economists will act as Director until a new appointment is made. Mr Challen has been working closely with Mr Miller for over 2 years and has, on a number of occasions, acted as Director for short periods. I have no doubt that he will be able to manage Council's affairs capably until a permanent appointment is made. The decisions will be advertised as soon as possible, and every effort will be made to find the best available candidate to carry on this important work.

As I have said, I have made this decision with some reluctance, notwithstanding the fact that it constitutes a promotion for Mr Miller. In no way should it be interpreted as indicating any diminution of the role of EPAC, or of the significance that the Government attaches to it. As I said to you at the dinner immediately prior to the December meeting, I now believe that EPAC is beginning to make its mark as a source of economic advice, and the Government looks to the Council's contribution to be consolidated and further extended in the years ahead.

R.J.L. Hawke  
Prime Minister