



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

11 APRIL 1989

Mr David Beddall, Member for Rankin (Queensland) has been appointed chairman of the Prime Minister's Country Task Force.

He succeeds Mr David Simmons, Member for Calare, who is now Minister for Defence Science and Personnel.

Mr Beddall has been Member for Rankin since 1984, and was Member for Fadden from 1983 to 1984.

He has been a member of the Country Task Force since it was formed in March 1986.

During that time he has played a major role in addressing the problems facing people in provincial cities and towns.

Mr Beddall is also chairman of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology.

His electorate of Rankin stretches from the Brisbane suburb of Inala to the rural areas of the southern Darling Downs, including the town of Warwick.

Mr Beddall is now chairman of the Caucus Primary Industry and Resources Committee, from which the Country Task Force is based.

Since its formation the task force has dealt with a wide range of rural and socio-economic issues relating to people living in provincial cities and towns, as well as to the farm sector.

These issues include small business, industry, women's issues, education, job generation, care for the elderly, primary production, Aboriginal affairs, and local government.

I am certain Mr Beddall will continue to provide non-metropolitan people with a direct link to me on issues which most affect their lives.

I thank Mr Simmons for his contribution and commitment to the Country Task Force.

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