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PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S AUSTRALIA DAY MESSAGE JANUARY 26, 1990

Today we are celebrating the first Australia Day of the 1990s.

It is a day for looking forward to the challenges of an exciting new decade - for reaffirming our fundamental goals for Australia as we approach the 21st century.

My goals for Australia are that we should build a modern, growing economy; become a more self-confident and vigorous participant in the dynamism of our region; create a community dedicated more fully not just to the quantity of our economic output but also to our quality of life - to social justice, to environmental protection, to multicultural tolerance.

And in a world of profound and remarkable change, I want Australia to continue to be seen as a constructive, independent and clear-sighted contributor to the emergence of peace and freedom throughout the world.

That is all certainly a tall order - but a nation such as Australia, with all our wealth of human and natural resources, should set ambitious goals.

Indeed, as we look around this great nation, it's clear that such goals are well within our grasp.

Of course difficulties lie ahead. This is no time for complacency. But I think we can, on this Australia Day, look with pride on our achievements as a community, and with confidence on our capacity, working together, to tackle our problems.

There is no doubt: we have turned the national tide, from ebb to flow. The 1990s do look bright for an Australia prepared to continue the hard but rewarding work of creating prosperity, genuinely earned and fairly shared.