



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

16 FEBRUARY 1990

In accordance with normal procedure I release the text of the letter I wrote to the Governor-General advising a dissolution of the House of Representatives with a view to a House of Representatives and half Senate election on 24 March 1990 and the text of the Governor-General's reply.



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

16 FEB 1990

His Excellency the Honourable Bill Hayden, AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Your Excellency

I write to advise you to dissolve the House of Representatives and take the necessary action for a half Senate election in time for the elections for both Houses to be held on 24 March 1990.

While the term of the current House of Representatives does not expire until 14 September 1990, it is necessary to bring the election for the House forward to coincide with the half Senate election which must be held in time for the new senators to take their places on 1 July 1990. Holding the two elections on the same day will spare the Australian community the additional expense and disruption which would result from having two separate national elections so close together.

The details of the election timetable I propose are:

Dissolution	19 February 1990
Issue of writs	19 February 1990
Close of electoral rolls	26 February 1990
Close of nominations	2 March 1990
Polling day	24 March 1990
Return of writs (latest date)	30 May 1990

Under section 12 of the Constitution, the Governors of the States issue writs for the election of senators for the States. Accordingly, I invite you to propose to the Governor of each State that the dates proposed above be adopted for the purpose of the election of the State senators.

Parliament has appropriated sufficient funds to enable the work of the administration to be carried on through the election period. The Appropriation Bills granting supply for 1989-90 were passed last year. The timetable I propose above provides sufficient time for a new Parliament to be assembled to pass legislation for additional estimates for 1989-90 and Supply Bills for 1990-91.

Attached for your approval and signature is a Proclamation which will dissolve the House of Representatives at 4.00pm on Monday 19 February 1990 and discharge senators from attendance as from that time until the commencement of the next session of the Parliament. Consistent with previous practice, I would have it in mind that you retain the Proclamation for signature on Monday, following the pre-dissolution Executive Council meeting.

I intend to make a statement later today announcing the election, subject to your agreement with what I have proposed.

I should appreciate your confirmation that you have no objection to public release of this letter and your reply at an appropriate time.

Yours sincerely



R.J.L. Hawke



PROCLAMATION

Commonwealth of
Australia

By His Excellency the
Governor-General of the
Commonwealth of Australia

Governor-General

WHEREAS section 5 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia provides that the Governor-General may, by Proclamation, dissolve the House of Representatives:

NOW THEREFORE I, WILLIAM GEORGE HAYDEN, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, by this Proclamation dissolve the House of Representatives at 4.00 o'clock in the afternoon on Monday 19 February 1990.

AND I discharge senators from attendance as from that time on that date and until the day appointed for holding the next session of the Parliament.

GIVEN under my Hand and the
Great Seal of Australia on
February 1990.

By His Excellency's Command,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Bob Hawke".

Prime Minister

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!



Government House,
Canberra ACT 2600.

16 February 1990

My dear Prime Minister,

When you called on me this morning you handed me your letter of today's date advising me to dissolve the House of Representatives and to take the necessary action for a half Senate election to enable the elections for both Houses to be held on 24 March 1990.

I write to confirm my oral acceptance of that advice, and your reasons for it. I shall today invite State Governors to take the necessary action for the holding of Senate elections and, on Monday, 19 February 1990 I shall, in accordance with your recommendation, issue a proclamation dissolving the House of Representatives at 4.00 p.m. on that day and discharging Senators from attendance until commencement of the next session of the Parliament.

I have noted your assurances that Parliament has appropriated sufficient funds to enable the work of the administration to be carried on through the election period.

I have no objection to the public release of your letter and this reply at an appropriate time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Hayden".

The Honourable R.J.L. Hawke, AC, MP,
Prime Minister,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600