



## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED BY ROD HENSHAW ON  
BRISBANE ABC RADIO 4QR 27/02/90.  
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RH: Prime Minister good to see you thanks very much indeed for making time available to us this morning. You've had a pretty busy sort of a morning so far.

PM: Well it's been reasonably busy, but I'm going to launch into an attack on the media.

RH: Well you've got plenty of them here to listen to you.

PM Right from the very beginning because I discovered that part of the reason for the great traffic jam we were in is that the media bus in which our people have come here was parked outside and blocked off one laneway of traffic. So it's the media's fault again.

RH: We were talking to Bluey Thompson there a little while ago it's probably him that's driving it is it?

PM: Oh I don't know about Bluey, Bluey's a good bloke, I don't think it was Bluey Rod.

RH: Okay, it's nice of you to make time for us this morning, we've got a lot of listeners that want to talk to you so I won't take up too much of their time, but just briefly, this morning the news is that you're going to spend \$100 million now for the allocation of road improvements, and that seems a lot of money at a glance but given the fact that it's for the whole of Australia are you really pushing that as a big vote catcher?

PM: No it's not pushing it as a big vote catcher. Let's just get it into perspective Rod, we've spent very, very much more on roads than the Opposition did when they were in Government, 18% more in real terms comparing the two periods. In annual terms that's about \$235 million per annum, in real terms more, so we've done a lot but we understand that roads are an area of concern. We're not going to just do the drunken sailor promise of the Opposition and talk about billions and billions. What I've done is to say we will impose this increased tax on luxury cars which will bring in about \$100 million a year and make that available to spend on a program which we'll title the Provincial Cities

PM (cont): and Rural Highways Program. In co-operation with the States we'll add that to the very substantial existing funding on those areas of roads which they regard as most important. In Queensland here I think that will be particularly useful in regard to north Queensland and west of the Divide.

RH: How about the Pacific Highway? I think Charles Blunt is about to - he has foreshadowed an announcement later this week on the Pacific Highway and the dual carriageway between Sydney and Brisbane?

PM: Well, in regard to the Pacific Highway, that part that you talk about there, what we've said of course is that under the existing funding that's available and the States funds in NSW if they wanted to give that the highest priority that would be able to be done within the sort of timetable that the Opposition is talking about - the next 10, 15, 20 years, it's possible to be done the whole thing. But, if in regard to this \$300 million extra, which is available over the next three years as a result of this additional promise, the State Government wants to, with existing funds, add some of this to that purpose then we're prepared to discuss that too.

RH: Okay, well as I said I don't want to take up too much of our listeners time, but you're pushing the seven years theme as a Government which has faced up to its problems, it's been responsible but the fact remains it has been brought up in the campaign before I know, the fact remains there are still people out there who are wanting a change from high interest rates, the highest inflation of any OECD country in the world and the ever-increasing foreign debt. Now can they be blamed perhaps for questioning whether or not you can arrest that situation. You've failed in the past what's....

PM: No of course, we haven't failed in the past. The people out there, you've got to attribute to the Australian electorate a greater degree of intelligence and breadth of perception than involved in some of those questions Rod. They've got to make a choice and now you've seen in the last two or three days the truth that I've been talking about, about Mr Peacock and the Liberals. They are saying, aren't they, that you want answers. Well what's been shown now in the debate is that not only have the Liberals not got the answers they haven't even got the questions, they can't ask the questions let alone provide the answers and what you're listeners are going to be saying to themselves well look course we want lower interest rates, that's true. But they're going to say what's Mr Peacock saying and what's he promising that he can do to bring about lower interest rates, and the answer of course is that inevitably under the Peacock policies you get an explosion of interest rates. Rod there are two things which determine what happen to the economy

PM (cont): essentially and interest rates in particular are included in that, and that's wages policy and what you do with your Budget. If you can't control wages, if wages blow out then of course inflation goes through the roof, interest rates go and the economy collapse. Now, again, on Sunday night Rod, you saw it I asked Mr Peacock, I said 'at the press conference when you were asked this critical question, you just said who's to know' and that's what he said, he said 'who's to know' what will happen to wages under my policy. So I put it to him again, I said look if you're talking about reduced interest rates you recognise that a reduction in inflation rate's important, you must have a target wage growth in your mind, what is it? No answer. So he can concede as he must do that there'll be a wages explosion. Secondly, ....

RH: Well he doesn't concede that, what he actually says is that his policies....

PM: ....that he doesn't know. He says he doesn't know and he agrees with the statement that I attributed to him, which he must do which was on the 31st of August last year, and these were his exact words, he said 'Australia needs governments to get out of industrial disputes, to get out of wage fixing as such, governments just get in the way'. Now those are his exact words Rod so....

RH: But he threw the same sort of thing back at you with promises you made.....

PM: Not on wages he didn't.....

RH: ...and on those very things that I mentioned there.

PM: On the contrary, you are asking essentially about interest rates, I'm saying to you that on the critical question of what determine interest rates Rod, he walks away. He concedes that in regard to wages there must be a wages explosion. Why do we have the pilots everywhere I go supporting Mr Peacock? For a very simple reason that they accept, as they should do, that he meant what he said on the 31st of August that governments should get out of disputes, let it be between the parties. That would have been a 30% wage increase for pilots, it would have been a wages explosion. So if you have a wages explosion, interest rates explode. He's got a \$6 Billion unfunded set of promises so the deficit explodes. If your deficit explodes and wages explode, then the economy's gone.

RH: Okay, we'll take some calls our lines are open now, in fact they're pretty well chokka, so you're speaking with the Prime Minister.

CALLER 1: Hello Mr Hawke how are you. It's Mrs Scarf (?) from Longreach speaking. I was wondering if your Government is re-elected will you be going ahead with the Over Horizon Radar for north of Australia?

PM: Yes indeed Mrs Scarf I'm glad you asked about that Over the Horizon Radar because there are two things at least that are important about it. The first and obvious one is the importance of it for Australia's forward defence planning which we have undertaken in a way which has never been equalled before in the history of this country, and what we're doing, the essence of our forward defence planning programs is Australia's self-reliance. And an important part of that as you know is to re-orient our defence strategy thinking to see that across the north of Australia we have capacities which enable us to deal with any potential threat in the future. An intrinsically important part of that is the concept and then the installation of the Over the Horizon Radar. What's very interesting, secondly, about it Mrs Scarf is the magnificence of the Australian scientific inventiveness and technology that's going into this. Not only are we going to be providing for Australia, but I'm very proud to say that other countries are showing a great deal of interest in what we're doing in this area.

RH: Okay, thanks for your question Mrs Scarf we have to move on because we have a board full of calls.

CALLER 2: Tony Miles here. Mr Hawke, just before I ask a question may I say I've got two children in the Defence Forces and you are actually running down the Defence Forces.

PM: Well, of course, that's not right Tony.

TONY: I can argue that...however, what I want to know is, I'm a cleaner, I earn \$17,000 a year, I want to know as my wages keep falling because of inflation how you can justify the over-ruling of the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal which awarded you a postal allowance of \$9000 and you increased it to in excess of \$30,000, which is more than double my wages?

PM: Well, Tony, let me - let's get the facts straight in terms of what I've done about Remuneration Tribunals and salaries. In that area Tony I have incurred the wrath of many of my colleagues on both sides of the Parliament because as Prime Minister I took the view that we would not accept decisions and recommendations of the Remuneration Tribunal which sought to give us very very significant increases in salaries, because I took the view Tony that if we were.....

TONY: ....interjecting....

PM: Can I please finish my answer Tony I'll do it quickly. I'm talking about what the Tribunals were talking about with regard to salaries and I have personally taken the initiative to see that we didn't get those sorts of increases because I didn't think it was appropriate that I and other Members of Parliament should get excessive salary increases if we were asking for restraint from the rest of the community. On the question of the postal allowances what has been done there is it's regarded as important that Members of Parliament who so often get abused, I guess by you and others for not being in touch and communicating with their constituents, should have a capacity to enable them to be in full communication with their constituents and something which generally has been greeted as it should be.

CALLER 3: Good morning Mr Hawke, at the CHOGM conference you put forward a motion demanding democracy and increased sanctions against South Africa. There are 14 African countries in the Commonwealth and these voted with you demanding democracy in South Africa. I challenge you to name me one that has democracy and ask that instead of backslapping when are you going to demand democracy in these countries?

PM: Well, of course, that's a very convenient way of overlooking the fact that every country in the Commonwealth supported the position, with some qualification I suppose on the part of Mrs Thatcher. If you want to attack the conservative government of Canada, led by Mr Brian Mulroney and imply that there's a lack of democracy there, you can do. I'm not saying indeed that there is an ideal political system in every country in the Commonwealth. But what I am saying, and I am saying vigorously and what is being said by the overwhelming majority of countries around the world, is that South Africa is absolutely unique in the world in having an entrenched Constitutional position which denies to the overwhelming majority of the people within that country a right to participate in its Parliamentary and democratic processes simply on the basis of their colour. There is no other country in the world of which that is true and that is why it is objectionable and that is why the Commonwealth, together with the United States and the European countries over several years now, have imposed sanctions which sanctions have brought about the changes that are taking place. At no stage have I wanted sanctions for the sake of sanctions. As I have put it, I do not encourage sanctions for the sake of bringing South Africa to it's knees but to it's senses and fortunately there are great signs now that South Africa is being brought to it's senses. I have been a leader in the Commonwealth in pressing for sanctions, I've also been a leader in the Commonwealth in welcoming the changes that are now taking place in South Africa. I welcome greatly the fact that Mandela's been released, I welcome the sensible statements that he's making there and I hope and pray that in fact in the period of the not too distant future

PM (cont): as a result of the things with which we've been associated and of which I'm proud that we will see the emergence of South Africa as a true multi-racial, democratic society.

RH: Just taking all those things into consideration, would you look at relaxing the restrictions which apply to sporting bodies going to South Africa?

PM I have in fact said that the Commonwealth should now be prepared to consider these things. I put it very precisely, I've said I welcome and welcome unqualifiedly the steps that President De Klerk has taken, I'll put it this way Rod I've said he's now set the stage for negotiations. Once that stage is actually occupied and the meaningful negotiations are underway which we can see are going to lead to the dismantling of the pillars of apartheid then, of course, we should move.

RH: But if a sporting team went over there tomorrow they'd still be rebels wouldn't they? Even given the relaxation of that...

PM: Of course they would be and they understand that. I mean there is no question but that the present conditions must stay. But we must also say very clearly that we're ready to move to lift them. As someone put it in New Zealand when I was over there when these changes were being announced, you don't get your gold medals for the heats, you get it for the final. Now what's happening is we're really setting up the stage... on which the negotiations will take place and no one will be keener than Bob Hawke and the Government of Australia to see the sanctions removed if those real negotiations are taking place and leading to change because we want - I mean what it's all about, is to get a democratic, multi-racial South Africa as part of the international community of nations.

CALLER 4 (from Toowoomba): Good morning Mr Hawke, I have two small questions to ask you. In 1972 I bought a pharmacy for my daughter. I borrowed \$100,000 bridging finance at 9%. Now after 7 years of your Government overdraft interest now is 22% to 28%, or 20.5% prime rate. Now that's the interest section of it. Now the other one is, at that time prescriptions for people were \$4, that covered all prescriptions and everything anybody wanted. Now they cost \$11 which is an increase of 175% in 7 years or 27% inflation per year, which is not even shown in the CPI.

RH: Your question is obvious, I wonder could you come to it?

CALLER 4: Well that's it - why is the interest rate....do anything about it and what's he going do about the prescriptions.

PM: Okay, I'm glad they're two little questions, I wouldn't

PM (cont): have liked two big ones sir, but let me deal with the two little questions that you've asked. Now obviously in regard to the first you're talking about what's happened to interest rates. Well Rod and I had a bit of a brief discussion about this at the beginning. Let me remind you that at no stage under my period of Government have interest rates reached the peak which they did under the previous Government, they hit - 90 day bill rates hit 22% in April of 1982, they are now 16%, so we've never cracked the heights of the conservatives. Now I have made no attempt to hide the fact that last year we had to tighten monetary policy. I didn't like it as I've said I'm neither a sadist nor a masochist, I don't want to hurt myself and I certainly don't want to hurt the people of Australia, but we had a situation where we had the tightest fiscal policy ever four successive years of real reductions in Commonwealth outlays, never been done before, three successive years of surplus, never been done before. So tight fiscal policy, tight wages policy and on top of that we had to have tight monetary policy because quite simply last year our expenditure went up by 8%, our production by 4% and the gap was filled by imports which we couldn't afford to keep bringing in. So, interest rates had to be high, I didn't like doing it but it's working and the banking industry is now saying, the banking industry are saying that interest rates will come down. Now if you want go to the area of prescriptions and the whole area of health, well look, I suggest that you listen to the debate today between Mr Shack and my Minister Dr Blewett because you can then have the opportunity of comparing what this country would be like under the Liberals or under us in this whole area. I simply rely, and I ask you to take aboard Mr Shack's words, this is Mr Shack the Shadow Minister for Health, this is what he said on the 25th of January this year, a very recent statement, he said 'the Liberals and the National Party do not have a particularly good track record on health and I do not need to remind you of our time in Government'. Now there is a self-condemnation of our opponents, they wrecked the total health system of this Government, of this country in Government, they had 7 years in Opposition to come up with a scheme and they've got to stand up abjectly naked in policy terms on the 25th January and say 'we wrecked it in Government and in Opposition we can't come up with an answer'.

RH: Your detractors would have it that at least they're being honest, but no Government has really been able to come to grips with how to actually conduct feasibly public health.

PM: On the contrary, when we came to office Rod, there were 2 million of your fellow Australians who were uncovered, who were faced with the spectre of fear in not being able to meet doctors bills or hospital bills. We've brought in a scheme, Medicare, under which every single one of our fellow Australians now does not have that fear, they are covered. So we have a scheme which

PM (cont): is at once universal but fair. It means that I who have a high salary pay more, and I guess you've got a reasonable one you pay more, as we should, so that every Australian is covered. Never been done before, and that scheme is one which is looked at around the world as being outstanding in terms of its universality and it's fairness.

CALLER 5: Uh, consensus Bob is it...

PM: Well it's Bob Hawke, I don't know whether that's funny or not.

CALLER 5: Okay well you can say that it's funny or not, but I'd just like to say to the voters of Petrie, Forde, Hinkler and Fisher to reflect on your consideration of our heritage and basically if you are for consensus as we're led to believe, what is a better measure of consensus than a referendum on Asian immigration. Now we have basically two parties with bipartisan policy on which we cannot vote. If these were two multi-national corporations and so defying the will of the public the Government would legislate to change the rules. But when they make the rules themselves there's no go. Now if you're for consensus and any number of respected people from academia and any other place have put up questions that can be held on a referendum, you continually deny them, your series of failed Immigration Ministers have denied them, right, so when are you going to give the will of the Australian public - which is reflected in polls - a go, consensus?

PM: Well I find that one of the more tortured questions that's ever been addressed to me but I'll try and make some sense out of it if I can and as I see the thrust of your tortured question you're against immigration into this country from Asia. You are in this democracy entitled to your opinion, but if I wanted to think of one thing more calculated to condemn the children of this country to a second, third or fourth-class future, I could not think of anything more calculated to do that than your racist position. The fact is that the most dynamic region of the world, and what will certainly be the most dynamic region of the future ahead of us, is the Asia-Pacific region and what is implicit in your question is that you think the people of this region, leave the morality out of it I'll come to that in a moment, but just look at the economics of it. You think that the people of this region will allow a bifocated attitude by Australia to say yes, Australia, we will buy all your primary products, we'll give you a share of our manufactured markets, sure, we'll treat you equal, but we will cop being treated by you as second-class citizens, as second-class human beings. I'll tell you what the countries of the region would do, and they'd be entitled to, if you think we're second class, or third class or fourth class human beings, well you keep your iron ore, you keep your coal, you keep your



PM (cont): tourism, you keep everything else because if we're inferior human beings okay so be it and we'll treat Australia accordingly. If that's what you want to do for your kids and the future of this country well, my friend, as I say it's a democracy you're entitled to your view but let me say you couldn't be more profoundly unpatriotic to this country than entertaining that view. And, of course, as I say on the morality of it - I don't know whether you entertain any semblance of christian views, perhaps you don't perhaps you're contemptuous of them. I just want to say what I've said before, I happen to believe profoundly in the concept that I learnt from my father and that is if you believe in some concept of a God then if there's a fatherhood of God then we are all brothers and sisters in this world. So I reject you profoundly in terms of fundamental patriotism for the future of this country and I reject you profoundly and with total contempt on moral grounds.

RH: I've been watching your eyes during that dissertation Prime Minister, you feel quite emotional about that don't you?

PM: Well you can look at my eyes.....

RH: Well we do have eye contact...

PM: I know, I'm simply saying there is nothing that I feel more deeply about than race. I mean if I were born black, as I could have been, does that make me a lesser human being? A little black kid in Africa or a little brown kid in Asia? Are they inferior human beings because the colour of their skin is different? They're not and this idea that you're better because of the colour of your skin or the shape of your head or your eyes. I mean I just find it profoundly objectionable, profoundly, but as I say more importantly in one sense than moral repugnance I feel about that Rod, it's my concern as a Prime Minister for the future of this country. I mean it is so true that we would be condemning our kids and their kids to, you know, third, fourth class economic status if we said to the countries of Asia and the Pacific you are inferior citizens, we regard you are so inferior we'll let everyone else in as a citizen but not you and expect that burgeoning economic part of the world, as they are, thanks Australia we like the insult that's very nice but we'll regard you as equals economically when you regard us as human beings, as inferiors. I mean it would condemn this country to an abomination of a future.

CALLER 6: Good morning, Bob it's Craig Hardy from Central Queensland here. We're concerned about the Shoalwater Bay issue up here. Senator Graham Richardson has recommended to Stewart West, the Minister for Administrative Services, that sand mining be allowed in this area. We're concerned because we see it as the biggest natural area on the whole east coast of Australia

CALLER 6 (cont): south of Cooktown. I do understand that Graham Richardson has had trouble in coming to his decision, he believes it's a difficult decision I can understand that. We also believe the Australian Heritage Commission has looked at it and is recommending directly against sand mining in this area, so we seem to have a conflict here. I'm just wondering whether to resolve the issue - and I don't believe the issue has been looked at properly because of the restrictions placed on the EIS process in this case - I believe this is an ideal situation to be looked at by the Resource Assessment Commission. We're looking at a project in isolation, we're not looking at it on a whole project to try and come to some sort of balance where we can look at protecting our best areas and maybe looking at mining those areas that have been degraded elsewhere. I'm just wondering whether you might be able to give us an undertaking that the Resource Assessment Commission could look at this project, along with sand mining in general, rather than allow the leases to be gone ahead with.

PM: Craig what I can say is this to you, you are right in saying that Senator Richardson, as he is obliged to under the legislative processes of which you are aware, he's made a recommendation to the Minister Stewart West. But that is as far as it's gone. Let me say to you that no decision has been made by the Government and as you appreciate we're in a caretaker period where no decisions of this sort are taken, but we will have to consider this matter. After we are re-elected it will come before the Government and what Senator Richardson has done is one part of the legislative process. He's put his recommendation to the other Minister. The Government has not yet made a decision.

CALLER 7: Mr Hawke, I'm really not clear on what your policy is on privatisation. Your Ministers appear to be saying quite a lot of different things and you're very silent on the matter.

PM: Well, let me stop my silence if you think I've been silent, I haven't been silent on the matter. The first point I want to make is that in the whole scheme of the economic management of this country the question of privatisation as you refer to it is a very peripheral thing in terms of the fundamentals. There is a very basic difference between the Opposition and ourselves on this. They have an ideological obsession with privatisation and they would privatise everything. Now, I've made it quite clear for instance that as far as I'm concerned I would never contemplate putting Telecom into private hands because the people of Australia, and may I say particularly many of the people in outback Queensland would pay an enormous price if that were done and we're simply not prepared to contemplate that sort of thing at all. And there's a difference between us. They would do this and impose a cost upon the ordinary citizens of this country. As

PM (cont): far as the two airlines are concerned, within my party I have the processes being followed now and they are looking at the way in which the capital requirements of the two airlines, that's Australian and Qantas, may be satisfied. When that process is concluded we'll look at that issue. But there is, as I say, a fundamental ideological difference between the Labor Party and the others on this. No enterprise would be safe from privatisation under them, including Telecom, and that would be something that ordinary Australians would pay a very high price for if that were ever contemplated.

RH: Okay have we got time for one quick one before.....

PM: Yes, sure Rod sure.

RH: We've got Rosemary from Toowoomba.

CALLER 8: Good morning, nice to speak to you. Look I don't understand overseas, you know, the balance of payments at all, maybe you could help me. Look I can't understand, I think I heard you say that the Government doesn't have any overseas debt. Is that right?

PM: That's right, could I just explain it to you. The debt that Australia has is composed of 63% of it is composed by the private sector, the private sector owes 63% of it. Fifteen percent by State Governments and you'll see that this will come to 103 and I'll explain to you why if you.....don't try and be smart - I'm talking to Rod, Rosemary - 63% by the private sector, 15% by State Governments and 25% by various instrumentalities. When I came to office the Commonwealth Government owed overseas debt, but because I've done what's never been done before Rosemary, that is run the business of the Commonwealth Government of Australia in surplus for \$17 Billion for the last three years, we've used that to pay off overseas debt, and when I say we don't owe any debt it's because our reserves are more than the small amount of debt that we owe, we are nett international creditors. So you, as a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia in respect of the Commonwealth Government, owe no debt. Now the other part of the story which is predominantly private debt is yes, that's high but it represents decisions that have been made by the private sector on commercial grounds whereby they believe that they can undertake investment projects which will generate sufficient income to meet their indebtedness obligations. And, of course, the other side of that debt Rosemary is that that borrowing has been used to finance projects like, for instance, the North West Shelf project, the biggest investment project in Australia's history. Now that debt which has been borrowed is now being reflected in the ships plying between the north west of Australia and Japan, selling our natural gas to Japan and earning

PM (cont): us as it will now over the years billions of dollars. So I'm not saying that in a complacent sense and indeed that's why we've got the policies in place to increase the export capacity of Australian manufacturing industry, we've increased manufactured exports by 54% in the last 4 years, we're bringing down imports now, and that will mean that we won't be so exposed in the future to changes in commodity prices, we'll have a more structured set of exports which will mean that through time as we become more competitive increase our own capacity to export and replace imports, we will gradually bring down that debt to acceptable and sustainable levels.

RH: Okay, according to one of your minders you have time for one more Mr Hawke, are you going to sack him after this or.....

PM: Not at all, as you can see I'm very relaxed about the questions.

RH: Okay our final one, we've been told you have to be at a place by 10 o'clock...

PM: Oh well we'll just have to put that back a little bit yes, okay.

CALLER 9: Good morning Prime Minister Hawke, it's Graham Brown, I'm ringing from Christian Heritage College in Mansfield. I just wanted to congratulate you on behalf of our College for granting us Austudy. Now we've been trying to get Austudy for about the last two to two and a half years and at last it's come through for us and we're just really happy about it and we just wanted to thank you so much for it.

PM: Well thank you very much Graham. If I could just comment upon that saying that now, since we've been office, we've trebled the number of Austudy recipients and that's part of what I in a sense have the greatest pride in in my Prime Ministership. Could I just make a brief point to you and your listeners. When I came to office, only one in three of our kids stayed on in school, and in their seven years in office the conservatives had lifted that retention rate from 34% to 36%, just two percentage points. Now, by more than doubling the secondary education allowances to low and middle-income families, by trebling the number of Austudy payments, we now have an Australia in which the retention rate, or staying on in school, has been lifted to two-thirds, two out of three of our kids. That's the most fundamental change that's been made in this country that now instead of the kids just mainly from the well-to-do suburbs being sure of staying on, kids from all areas are staying on in school. That's the fundamental building block of education to have your kids staying on in school and it's on that you build what you do in TAFE and the universities and so on and I think it was an absolute tragedy.

PM (cont): that after 7 years they'd only lifted that retention by two percentage points, we've lifted it by 26. Moved it from 1 in 3 to 2 in 3 of our kids staying on and Graham, may I say that I thank you very much because you're part, if I may put it this way, of a total pattern of a revolution in education in this country where all our kids are going to have the opportunity to develop and train their talents.

RH: Okay, we'll have to leave our calls there. Prime Minister just before you go, we're into week two of the campaign, you're not going bonkers yet?

PM: No, I'm not going bonkers, but I don't think you'd disagree with me would you Rod that if I'd left it to May the 12th, and we'd been in election mode from now until then fair chance a lot of us would have gone bonkers I think. I feel very good.

RH: What about getting rattled. I mean we saw you sweep away those microphones the other day. No I thought you were actually going to sweep away a media bus this morning.

PM: Well if the media bus hadn't been there mate I would have been here a bit earlier, but no I feel very relaxed, I feel well and I'm very pleased with the reception that I'm getting around Australia generally and from interviewers in particular Rod if I may say so.

RH: Mr Hawke many thanks for your time this morning.

PM: Thank you.

Ends