



## PRIME MINISTER

TRANSCRIPT OF LIVE CROSS TO IAN LESLIE, CHANNEL 10 NEWS,  
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E & O E - PROOF ONLY

LESLIE: Mr Hawke, the greens have said a Hawke victory would be better for Australia than a Peacock win. How good is that news?

PM: Well, it's good news, but it's deserved news, Ian, because as I said the other night, the facts are that on every major decision we've made to save the Franklin, to stop logging in Daintree, to stop mining in Kakadu, to save the tall forests of Tasmania, they are our decisions - every one of them bitterly opposed by the coalition. So I'm glad of the news. I think it's deserved news.

LESLIE: In real terms though, can you quantify the greens endorsement. What does it mean?

PM: No, I'd, I'd be misleading your viewers if I tried to put a figure on it. All I can say is this. It is a fact that support for environmental candidates has obviously increased in this country as it has, I think, in every country in the world. Their vote will be up and to the extent that their preferences go to us, and solidly to us, that must be an advantage. I can't put a figure on it Ian.

LESLIE: Would you say now that already you've won the election?

PM: No I, that would be cocky and undeserved and improper for me to say that. All I can say is that what I've tried to do from the start of the campaign, Ian, is to campaign on issues, on facts and where I make promises, to fund them. And I think talking about issues and funding my promises is working for us.

LESLIE: If, as a result of the greens endorsement, people might say that Bob Hawke has won the election on the back of the greens, not his own merit. That's what people might say. What would you say to that?

PM: Well I'd say that it would be unfounded. People have the opportunity of knowing that we have created record employment in this country, record economic

growth, that we are restructuring the economy, making it more competitive. We are getting ... into school and getting them educated and trained, that I've taken the lead in international issues environmentally, like the Antarctic, creating an Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Council, taking the lead in Cambodia, taking the lead in chemical weapons. So internationally and domestically it's been a forward looking Government and we have a funded plan for the future. We're not relying on the past, Ian, we have a funded plan for the future. So we'll get a great deal on our own merit, but I, I thank those who are directly environmentally concerned that they have faced up to the truth, Ian, that if their real concern is the environment, then it's their second preference that counts because the environmental candidates won't form the Government. It's do you want Labor, whose done all the things for the environment or the Liberals and National Party who have opposed every decision. If they were in, the Daintree would ... been logged, Kakadu been mined, the Franklin wouldn't be running free. So -

LESLIE: Mr Hawke, one quick question, you've said that you're not feeling over-confident, not feeling too cocky, at all in this election campaign have you ever felt a moment of fright that you might lose, lose this race?

PM: No I haven't really, Ian. Simply historically I think the Australian people have usually got their Federal vote right and it would be, in my judgement, a terrible mistake for the future of Australia if you were to give government to people who can't govern themselves. If they can't govern themselves, they can't govern the country and I, I've never thought that when the chips were down they'd do that, Ian.

LESLIE: Mr Hawke, we'll have to leave it there. Thank you very much for joining us.

PM: Thank you very much indeed, Ian.

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