



## PRIME MINISTER

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E & O E - PROOF ONLY

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, in the unlikely event that you lose tonight, is there life after this? What do you do?

PM: Well, I didn't think that I'd be starting off with a hypothetical but I'm prepared to. I will do what I've said during the campaign that I would see what the Party wanted me to do and I would listen to what they had to say. If they wanted me to stay on as leader I would listen to that but I wouldn't necessarily accept it. But I have had a life long involvement with and commitment to the Australian Labor Party. It is the party for the people of Australia and I wouldn't lightly just ignore their wishes, I would want to take it into account. But having said that, having answered the hypothetical, I am confident that the good sense of the Australian electorate will prevail again and that I'll have the great honour and privilege of continuing to lead Australia as its Prime Minister.

JOURNALIST: I ask the question that way simply because it looks as though it is going to be extremely tight tonight. How tight do you think it's going to be and is it possible that we won't get a clear result tonight?

PM: I think we'll know tonight. It is the case that there will be a higher vote for the non-major parties on this occasion than there has been in the past, for a number of reasons, and the most important of which I think is probably the increasing interest in environmental matters. It does seem to be the case as far as we can tell from our own research and the published polls that we will get a clear majority of the preferences of the Democrats and the environmentally inclined Independents. And I guess in answer to that part of the question which goes to when will we know the result, it may be that one will have to apply this evening some assumptions a little bit more than in the past. But I think, on the basis of our knowledge, we will be in a position to make those sorts of assumptions about the distribution of preferences.

JOURNALIST: Prime Minister, are you more nervous at this stage of voting day than you have been in the previous two elections?

PM: I don't get nervous and in the same way I don't get cocky or complacent. I don't get nervous. I mean, one of my principles in life has been - because I've seen it happen so often to others - that you don't worry about things which you can do nothing about. I've seen people destroy themselves by just worrying and fretting about things over which they can have no control and do nothing. It would be stupid for me to be nervous now. I've given this campaign my best shot. I've tried with all the resources at my command to do the job that I think the Australian people want of me. That is to explain my policies and to expose the inadequacies of the alternative. Now I've done the best shot, I've given that the best shot. Now that's done. There's no point in being nervous about it.

JOURNALIST: Mr Hawke, do you have a gut feeling about tonight?

PM: Yes, I have a gut feeling. I think the Australian people generally speaking in the post-war period have got it right. And I say that knowing that we were out of office for a long period and I think we were out of office for a long period because we were demonstrating to the public in the Labor Party that we couldn't control ourselves, govern ourselves, and I think the Australian electorate made the judgement that if you couldn't control yourselves you weren't proper to control the government of the country. I think they've essentially got their judgements right in federal elections for a very long period and I don't think they're going to get it wrong this time.

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