



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

4 JULY 1991

I announce the retirement of a distinguished public servant, Mr Fred Argy, OBE, who has been the Director of the Office of the Economic Planning Advisory Council since 1986.

Fred Argy has made an invaluable contribution to the Australian Public Service. His Public Service career has spanned some 27 years, which included appointments as Chief Economist at the Australian Industry Development Corporation, First Assistant Secretary in the Department of Housing and the Treasury, Secretary to the Committee of Inquiry into the Australian Financial System (the Campbell Committee), Australian Ambassador to the OECD in Paris and Deputy Secretary in the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations.

The Economic Planning Advisory Council has focussed on identifying ways of improving Australia's medium term potential for economic growth while maintaining a socially just distribution of economic benefits. With Mr Argy as Director its research program has emphasised issues covering productivity, competitiveness, competition policy, the saving-investment imbalance and national debt.

I have personally valued Fred's intellectual integrity and ability to combine human values with rigorous analysis of economic issues. Under his stewardship, the Office of EPAC has established an enviable reputation for quality research and analysis that has been both well communicated and very relevant to the Australian community.

Fred's energy and enthusiasm, as well as his charm and diplomacy, have helped to secure the continued commitment of members of the Economic Planning Advisory Council to the processes of consultation. He has had a key role in building public understanding of economic policy and encouraging informed debate on economic issues.

The current high standing of the Council owes much to Fred's work. I am sure that members of the Council, past and present, will echo my appreciation of his work, my regret that he is leaving and my heartiest good wishes for a busy and happy retirement.