



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT SECRETARIES

Further to my announcement on 14 May 1993 that Dr Peter Wilenski, AO is relinquishing his position as Secretary to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade because of treatment required for an illness, I have recommended to His Excellency the Governor-General the appointment of Mr Michael Costello as Secretary to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Mr Costello is at present the Secretary to the Department of Industrial Relations. Before that he was a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

I shall also be recommending the appointment of Mr Peter Core, currently a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Primary Industries and Energy, as Secretary to the Department of Industrial Relations in place of Mr Costello. In addition to his management experience as a Deputy Secretary, Mr Core will bring to the position his experience as the former Chairman of the Management Improvement Advisory Committee, a Service-wide committee that considers significant management issues and initiatives in the Public Service.

These appointments will take effect on Thursday 27 May.

Dr Geoff Miller, currently Secretary to the Department of Tourism and Associate Secretary for Agriculture in the Department of Primary Industries and Energy, is a candidate for the position of Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. The Government is strongly supportive of Dr Miller's candidacy and has agreed that to enable him to spend more time enhancing Australia's prospects of having him appointed he should be relieved of his responsibilities as Secretary to the Department of Tourism. He will continue to perform his role as Associate Secretary for Agriculture in the Department of Primary Industries and Energy.

In Dr Miller's place as Secretary to the Department of Tourism I am recommending the appointment of Ms Helen Williams. Ms Williams was the Secretary to the Department of Education and Youth Affairs between 1985 and 1987. She was the first woman appointed as a Secretary of a Commonwealth Government Department. At present Ms Williams is an Associate Secretary in my Department where she has had special responsibilities for Commonwealth-State relations.

Because of Ms Williams' current involvement in the meeting of the Council of Australian Governments on 8 June, her appointment will take effect on Monday 14 June.

CANBERRA
26 MAY 1993