



PRIME MINISTER

114/93

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING, MP

APEC BUSINESS CONSULTATIVE PANEL

I am very much looking forward to participating in the informal APEC Leaders Economic Conference to be hosted by President Clinton in Seattle on 20 November.

The meeting represents a historic opportunity for the Asia-Pacific region. It will build on the increasing economic integration of the APEC economies and give expression to the growing sense of community in our region - as well as focusing the world's attention on the dynamism of Asia.

The active participation of the private sectors of the APEC economies - including Australian business - is integral to the success of APEC's further development. Governments can show the way and create the right conditions for the development of trade and investment. Ultimately, it is for business to export and invest.

I regard it as essential, in the lead-up to such a significant event, to hear the views of Australian business about the way ahead for APEC.

I have therefore decided to establish an APEC Business Consultative Panel - which I will chair - to assist me in preparing for the November Leaders meeting. I have invited the following senior Australian business people to participate in the Panel:

Mr Rodney Adler (Chief Executive Officer, FAI Insurance)
Mr Frank Blount (Chief Executive Officer, AOTC)
Mr Philip Brass (Managing Director, Pacific Dunlop)
Mr Robert Ferguson (Joint Managing Director, Bankers Trust)
Mr Bill Ferris (Executive Chairman, Australian Mezzanine Investments)
Mr Brian Finn (Chairman and Chief Executive, IBM Australia)
Mrs Janet Holmes a Court (Chairman, Heytesbury Holdings)
Mr David Murray (Managing Director, Commonwealth Bank of Australia)
Mr Michael Nugent (Chief Executive Officer, Goodman Fielder)
Mr Gary Pemberton (Chairman, QANTAS Airways)
Mr John Prescott (Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, BHP)

Mr Doug Shears (Executive Chairman, ICM Australia)
Dr John Stocker (Chief Executive, CSIRO)
Mr Andrew Turnbull (Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Burns
Philp)
Mr Stan Wallis (Managing Director, AMCOR)
Mr Dick Warburton (Chairman, Du Pont (Australia))

I expect that the first meeting of the Business Consultative panel will take place in early November in Canberra.

CANBERRA
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