



## **PRIME MINISTER**

139/93

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

#### **JOHN KERIN**

John Kerin has advised me by telephone this afternoon that he intends to resign as the Member for Werriwa early in 1994.

The Federal Parliament will be poorer for the absence of John Kerin, but he has explained to me the reasons for his retirement from politics, and of course I wish him well.

John Kerin, by any measure, has had a distinguished parliamentary and ministerial career. Among his many distinctions, I believe he was among the most committed and successful Primary Industries Ministers Australia has seen.

As he has noted in a media statement this afternoon, John Kerin's parliamentary service to Australia and the Labor Party goes back to the days of the Whitlam Government. He was one of the "originals", and he will be missed.

I note his total support for my Government, and for Labor, and his intention to continue to work closely with the rural sector to promote Australia's agricultural and trade interests. I wish him success in whatever he chooses to do.

**CANBERRA**

**3 December, 1993**