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PRIME MINISTER

54/94

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

John Fahey and his Government have by their decision to retain the Cahill Expressway - the eyesore that mars the most significant precinct in Sydney - demonstrated again the unfitness of their stewardship of the fortunes of this great city.

The Harbour Tunnel provides the first and only opportunity to remove the expressway and get it down before the Olympics.

The Commonwealth Government offered to help with the expressway - Mr Fahey made the decision without further reference to the Commonwealth.

Mr Fahey and his government are without any vision for Sydney and are run by the various authorities. The authorities are too strong for the Cabinet. Obviously the State Rail Authority and the Roads and Traffic Authority have decided this issue for the government.

Money is deciding another great issue for Sydney. The Fahey government decision to build a casino in Pymont will destroy the opportunity to return Pymont to the attractive compass of the city.

The hideous proposal for the casino will be a blot on the landscape of the city and flies in the face of what the Commonwealth Government is seeking to achieve with the Better Cities Program for Pymont. The fine textured redevelopment of Pymont is to be sacrificed to a budget subvention and an architectural proposal dominated by lowest common denominator guidelines.

Between the activities of the State government in its quest for money and the Roads and Traffic Authority, Pymont is being destroyed.

By the time Sydney gets an Olympic's Chief there will be no opportunity left to bring Sydney up to the potential of its beauty for the world to see in the year 2000.

Sydney is in the hands of a government focused solely on money without the slightest idea of the vision and sense of grandeur that Sydney now needs.

God help Sydney because John Fahey and his government won't.

CANBERRA
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