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**PRIME MINISTER**

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**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P. J. KEATING, MP  
EPAC NATIONAL STRATEGIES CONFERENCE**

As part of the changes that I announced last week for EPAC, I indicated that I would ask the Economic Planning Advisory Commission to convene a major Conference on Long-Term National Strategies to be held in Sydney on November 24-25.

In my view, it is appropriate that we take stock of our national ambitions from time to time in a clear-sighted way beyond the immediate concerns of the day.

Various strategic analyses have been prepared over the past year by major industry and community groups. The National Strategies Conference will offer the opportunity to assess these ideas and to canvass our national goals.

Using the theme "shaping our future", the conference will seek to assist the government and others in developing medium and long-term economic and social policies, to look at their integration with environmental concerns, and to assist in the development of better social decision-making. The aim of the Conference is to provide guidance on the high priority issues for Australia as we move towards the 21st century and beyond.

I will be attending the Conference and look forward to benefiting from its deliberations. The Conference will provide an important occasion for the consideration of our national priorities. I have asked EPAC to ensure that the conference proceedings are made available to members of the public.

**NOTE:**

The Conference program is the responsibility of EPAC and details will be announced later this month once speakers have been finalised. Conference registration is being handled by AIC Conferences, on an invitation basis given the limited space available.

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CANBERRA  
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