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**PRIME MINISTER**

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

9 Feb 1995

Today I wish to announce the publication of *Shaping Our Future*, the proceedings of the National Strategies Conference of last year.

The themes emerging from this benchmark review of our long-term goals show that the priorities and concerns of Australians are recognised and are being acted upon by this Government.

The necessary strategic direction for shaping a rewarding future for Australia is being firmly set in place by our past, present and future policies.

I commissioned the National Strategies Conference - convened on November 24-25 1994 by the new Economic Planning Advisory Commission (EPAC) - with the aim of defining national ambitions and opportunities, and considering long-term strategies.

According to the EPAC overview, a basic vision for Australia that emerged was of a country that is both creative and productive and inclusive and ecologically sustainable. There was broad agreement on these as national goals, and these are endorsed as goals by this Government.

Also according to EPAC, key future priorities for the achievement of these goals were defined at the Conference as the following:

- "consolidation and enhancement of Australia's emergence as a **Global Nation**;
- further development of Australia's capacities as an **Innovative Nation** in each of the economic, social and environmental spheres;
- reinvigoration of the commitment to a **Sustainable Australia** through ecologically sensitive activities and policy development; and
- redefinition of a **Social Charter** to provide for social security, personal and community development and civic engagement".

The proceedings of the Conference evoked a great sense of optimism. Many participants spoke of Australia's great potential and opportunity. Australia was seen as having the promise to be a role model for other countries. For young Australians this is the most important message of all.

CANBERRA

9 February 1995

For further information on the Conference contact Glenn Withers, Director EPAC, or Lynda Tin, Executive Manager, National Strategies Task Force, (06) 270 2444.

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