



# PRIME MINISTER

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

### THE MARKS ROYAL COMMISSION

The assessment by Commissioner Marks today of the "irrecoverable" position he has been placed in because of the "fairly restrictive" terms of reference imposed on him is a sad testimony to the jaundiced, political task he has been given.

The Commissioner's remarks confirm what I said in Parliament last week about the proceedings before the Commission.

They highlight the issue of the propriety with which the terms of reference have been drafted and call into question the Leader of the Opposition and his shadow ministers' involvement in the foundations of the Commission, as now criticised by the Commissioner.

Commissioner Marks is entirely right when he says: "The sooner this Commission comes to an end the better."

**CANBERRA**  
**8 SEPTEMBER, 1995**