PRIME MINISTER

20 October 1996

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER
THE HON JOHN HOWARD MP
DOORSTOP - WREST POINT CASINO HOTEL
HOBART, TASMANIA

E&OE...

There was Bass, there was Canberra, now I think I can say, Lindsay.

Ladies and gentlemen, I think we can say, "Jackie Kelly, we love you." After 42 per cent, 42 per cent of the votes that have been counted, Jackie Kelly has 50.3 per cent of the majority vote. On those figures her primary vote has risen by about seven per cent since the general election. And it is estimated conservatively that the two Party preferred swing to the Liberal Party is about two per cent conservatively and some estimates will put it as high as five per cent. Now, Lindsay is not an electorate which sort of has a Liberal end and a Labor end. I mean, you've got 42 per cent...I mean, I'm a very cautious bloke. One of Australia's better known political commentators said I was an absolute pessimist when it came to by-elections. I always like to have happy surprises, but this is a tremendous result, it really is. And to win a seat like this, as it appears as though we have, with an increased majority after seven months and after a pretty ordinary week over the last...(applause)...all I can say is that...I mean, the person who should be in our thoughts tonight is our magnificent candidate, Jackie Kelly.

But can I simply thank the people of Lindsay. I'm very proud of the fact that a lot of Howard's battlers who came to us on the 2nd of March and stayed with us, it looks as though they may have brought some of their mates with them. And the other thing that I've got to say is that this result is a vindication of that great Australian tradition of the fair go, it really is. That girl deserved a fair go and it seems as though, through all the static, that the wonderful people of Lindsay have delivered her that fair go. So thank you Jackie, you're terrific, you're the tops and we'll welcome you back with open arms when you are re-sworn in again.

Thank you very much.