

Australian Labor Party Platform, Constitution and Rules as approved by the 33rd National Conference, Adelaide 1979

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Preface

This book contains the Platform, Constitution and Rules of the Australian Labor Party as determined by the 33rd Biennial National Conference of the Party held at Adelaide in July, 1979. It is true to say that the Platform of the Australian Labor Party is representative of the views of the Party at all levels and of significant sections of the wider Australian community.

It is to be noted that Resolutions contained herein are those adopted by the 1979 National Conference. Resolutions are entered immediately following each section of the relevant Platform. General Policy Decisions and Resolutions of previous National Conferences not dealt with by the 1977 Conference still stand as decisions of the Party's supreme policy-making body and can be found by reference to earlier editions of the Party's Platform.

H. D. Combe
National Secretary

Introductory Note

This Platform is the ultimate representation of the policy-making processes of the Australian Labor Party. It embodies the collective work of many thousands of ALP members at the grassroots level as refined by an elaborate structure of Policy Committees. The policies formulated were submitted to extensive analysis and review before receiving final sanction of the ALP National Conference held at Adelaide in July, 1979.

The ALP Platform is both a statement of fundamental principles and a set of broad guidelines for the Federal and State Parliamentary Labor Parties which have the ultimate responsibility for implementing them as Governments. It is not designed as a blueprint to be implemented letter by letter. Implementation at the Government level requires a further process of refinement in accordance with other priorities, most importantly the state of the national economy and the availability of resources for policy innovation. Given these constraints, it is the duty of Labor Governments to fulfil the spirit of the principles written into this document and to discharge as faithfully as possible the policy recommendations. The guidelines of this Platform will be the dominant influence on Australian elections in the period until the next Platform is written about the middle of 1981. In particular, it will have a major influence on the next Federal Elections.

For these reasons, I commend this Platform to readers as the supreme policy document of the Australian Labor Party.

BILL HAYDEN

Leader of the Federal
Parliamentary Labor Party

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Abbreviations

The following are common abbreviations, used in the Platform.

ABC	AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION
ABS	AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
ACT	AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
ACTU	AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS
ALP	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
ANZUS	AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND UNITED STATES (TREATY)
ASIO	AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION
ASTEC	AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL
CAGEO	COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS
CES	COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
CPI	CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
CSIRO	COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION
CSL	COMMONWEALTH SERUM LABORATORIES
EEC	EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
ESCAP	ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA IN THE PACIFIC
ETUC	EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
FPLP	FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY
ICFTU	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF FREE TRADE UNIONS
ILO	INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANISATION
NAC	NATIONAL ABORIGINAL CONFERENCE
NEPSC	NATIONAL EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION STEERING COMMITTEE
NLCC	NATIONAL LABOUR CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
OECD	ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
PJT	PRICES JUSTIFICATION TRIBUNAL
SI	SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
TAFE	TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION
TNC	TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS
TUAC	TRADE UNION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUTA	TRADE UNION TRAINING AUTHORITY
UN	UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD	UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
WHO	WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

Preamble to the Platform

A Origins and Nature of the Party

The Australian Labor Party—

Had its origins in the aspirations of the Australian people for a dignified and constructive way of life.

As a Parliamentary force grew out of the national sentiment and the Trade Union Movements of the Nineteenth century. The entry of Labor into Parliament transformed the political issues in this country to questions of social, economic and industrial reform.

Is a movement having as its purpose the development of a free, independent and enlightened Australian nation within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

In the Commonwealth and States is democratic, national and constitutional:

Democratic — in that it believes that politics should be conducted within a framework of free elections on the basis of universal adult suffrage; that Governments may be freely elected and freely dismissed by the electorate; that the right of constitutional opposition to a Government is essential to freedom, and the Party rejects the conception that any Government once installed is irremovable;

National — in that it considers that the welfare of the Australian community cannot be secured by any political movement subject to international discipline, such as the Communist Party; and in that it stands for the most efficient and scientific defence of Australia by naval, military, aerial and civil defence, and by scientific research; and by properly planned migration policy;

Constitutional — in that it believes that its objectives must be attained by the constitutional utilisation of National, State and Local Governments; and that the Constitution should be altered by decisions of the Australian electorate; and in that it rejects theories of revolution and asserts that these theories have disastrous consequences to the people, and do not attain real and lasting benefits.

B General Philosophy of the Party

The Australian Labor Party believes—

In and supports at all times the basic civil rights guaranteed in the past by such historic documents as Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights and Habeas Corpus; and the separation and independence of judicial power from the Executive and the Legislature, freedom of worship, of the Press, of speech, assembly and association.

That political freedom can exist securely only in a society free of the social tensions which issue from poverty, economic injustice and gross economic inequality.

In the utilisation of the powers of government to maintain full employment, maximum standards of health and physical efficiency, to abolish poverty to clear slums and unhealthy environments, to prevent monopolist concentrations of property, to stabilise the economy, and to ensure freedom from want.

That the future of Australia depends to a great degree upon the intelligent use of land for primary production, and in a public works programme and agricultural policies designed to stabilise agriculture, conserve the soil and forests, provide irrigation and power, and to be the material basis of a prosperous rural community.

That the security of the family should be a primary aim of Government; that this is best attained by home ownership, freedom from unemployment and the recognition of the rights of parents in the training and education of their children.

That maintenance of the highest standards of moral, academic, and technical education requires that the Party at all times should concentrate an adequate part of the national resources on education.

In and supports international associations and organisations, such as the British Commonwealth of Nations and the United Nations, because they promote peace and international order.

C Membership of the Party

Membership of the Australian Labor Party is open to all residents in Australia who are prepared to accept its programme and methods, and who have associations with no other political party.

D Policies of the Party

Australian Labor Party policy is made by National Conferences of the National and State Parliamentary leadership of the Party, together with elected delegates from all States, the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory, and Australian Young Labor, and the Party policy within the States and Territories is framed by conferences of delegates elected by the constituent branches and affiliated unions. Its policy is not framed by directives from the leadership, but by resolutions from the members within branches and affiliated unions.

Objective of the Party

A Objective

The Australian Labor Party's objective is to achieve—

The democratic socialisation of industry, production, distribution and exchange — to the extent necessary to eliminate exploitation and other anti-social features in those fields—in accordance with the principles of action, methods and progressive reforms set out in this Platform.

B Interpretation of Democratic Socialisation

The Australian Labor Party believes that—

Democratic socialisation is the utilisation of the economic assets of the State in the interests of citizens, and that man is greater than the machines he uses or the environment in which he lives.

Scientific and technological advancement shall serve the interest of all and not be the exclusive right of the few.

The economic aims of social ownership or social control are full employment, higher production, a rising standard of living and social security; and seeks to secure through democratic socialism—

- a social justice and economic security;
- b freedom of speech, education, assembly, organisation and religion;
- c the right of the development of the human personality protected from arbitrary invasion by the State;
- d free election under universal, adult and secret franchise, with government by the majority, with recognition for the rights of minorities; and
- e the rule of law to be the right of all.

C Principles of Action

The Australian Labor Party believes that its Objective will be achieved by means of—

Constitutional action through the State and Australian Parliaments, municipal and other statutory authorities.

National planning of the economic, social and cultural development of Australia.

Cultivation of Labor ideals and principles, such as implementation of human rights, correction of injustice, help for the under-privileged, building Australian nationhood and abhorrence of war.

Promotion of the spirit of community service and of the acceptance of the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.

Co-operative activities involving training of workers and other producers in the duties and responsibilities of management and where necessary subsidising such activities.

Achievement of progressive reforms hereinafter described.

1 Aborigines and Islanders

A Preamble

For many thousands of years prior to the coming of white people to Australia, Aborigines and Islanders were the sole inhabitants of this continent. Discipline was embodied in the tribal structure. Each member had expectations and limitations within this discipline. There was total awareness of being in harmony with the land and 'dreaming'.

With the coming of white people, traditional land was stolen, spiritual links shattered, the tribal economy broken, ritual life was disrupted and in places ceased. In many cases Aborigines and Islanders were murdered and tribes separated. Leadership and kinship structures and culture were often devastated and many Aborigines and Islanders became dependent on white people. Strong remaining ties of family and clan were no match for collective feelings of defeat and dispossession. Aboriginality no longer meant pride, substance and belonging, it no longer meant a life-long exploration of the joys of the spirit. It came to mean constant denigration and contempt, grinding poverty, fear, helplessness and apathy. All the concepts of the Aboriginal personality were slowly undermined so that Aborigines and Islanders could only relate to white commercial society with shame and embarrassment.

In 1967 the merits of the Aboriginal struggle finally reached the conscience of most white people when the Australian Parliament was vested with responsibility for Aboriginal Affairs. The election of a Labor Government in 1972 saw the establishment of a Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the appointment of a Minister who had responsibility to attempt to restore land to the Australian indigenes and provide compensation for damage inflicted. Labor will continue to help in recognising and strengthening traditional and contemporary culture and provide for self-determination. A Labor Government will—

B Land Rights

- 1 Grant Land Rights to Aboriginal and Islander communities, using the principles and recommendations of the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission (Woodward Report) as a basis for legislation, subject to a continuing review and full investigation of the principle of a Treaty of Commitment, as negotiated on other continents, to compensate indigenous peoples for dispossession of their ancestors by the Crown.
- 2 Seek the co-operation of State and Territory Governments in initiating, and where necessary amending, legislation in implementing such principles and recommendations.

- 3 Allocate funds to the Aboriginal Land Fund to allow the purchase of land for Aboriginal and Islander communities throughout Australia.
- 4 Recognising that in some parts of Australia and in many other countries freehold land includes the mineral rights, incorporate in its land rights legislation the following principles—
 - a Aboriginal and Island people shall have the right to refuse permission for mining on their land or to impose conditions under which mining may proceed. To set aside a refusal, or conditions imposed, shall require an Act of Parliament; and
 - b royalties from mining on Aboriginals' or Islanders' land shall be paid to a Trust administered by Aboriginal and Island people to be for the use and benefit of the Aboriginal and Island people in the particular State or Territory after meeting the needs of the Aboriginal people created by that mining.
- 5 Give financial support to the outstation (homelands centre) movement, for those groups which have established, or wish to establish, decentralised communities on their traditional lands.

C Sacred Sites

- 1 Take responsibility, where necessary—
 - a for the establishment of representative councils of Aborigines and Islanders, for securing identification and protection of sacred sites and other sites of significance; and
 - b for preserving sacred objects and other valued articles belonging to Aboriginal and Island people, including those objects in museums and storage.

D National Aboriginal Conference

- 1 Develop and make effective the NAC as advising body to the Government and extend its powers as a policy making and organising authority amongst Aboriginal and Islander communities.
- 2 Ensure a new constitution for the NAC with a structure and procedures acceptable to Aboriginal and Islander communities.
- 3 Support the policy of self-determination and make an annual allowance to the NAC to enable it to operate its own activities.

E Discrimination and Rights

- 1 Legislate against all forms of discrimination as part of a programme to provide equal rights and opportunities for all persons and in particular to ensure the provision of equal rights and opportunities for all Aborigines and Islanders.

- 2 Accordingly, strengthen and enforce the provisions of the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (Queensland Discriminatory Laws) Act, 1975 and the Racial Discrimination Act, 1975.
- 3 Ensure the continuation of existing Aboriginal legal services where required, and where necessary establish further Aboriginal legal services.
- 4 Finance Aboriginal legal services to initiate court action when this is considered to be to the advantage of Aboriginal and Islander communities.
- 5 Legislate to recognise aspects of traditional law in the light of the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission.

F Housing

- 1 Ensure that all Aboriginal and Island families are properly housed within a period of ten (10) years. Funds will be made available to assist Aborigines and Islanders who wish to purchase their own homes. Personal wishes as to design and location should be taken into account, assisted through the restoration of the Aboriginal and Islander Housing Panel.
- 2 Give support to local communities and housing associations to build, purchase and maintain houses both for rental and for sale and to provide assistance, if required, for new and disadvantaged occupants, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining all Aborigines, Islanders and families in homes.
- 3 Provide alternative accommodation and services for those Aborigines and Islanders not desiring permanent residences.

G Health

- 1 Recognising that Labor's general health programme applies to everyone in Australia and that Aboriginal and Island communities have special needs—
 - a promote community involvement in health care;
 - b foster health education;
 - c emphasise disease prevention;
 - d improve nutritional standards; and
 - e introduce measures to reduce infant mortality.
- 2 Ensure that special health and mortality statistics of Aborigines and Islanders are collected and maintained.
- 3 Recognising the faith of Aborigines and Islanders in, and the effectiveness of, many traditional Aboriginal medicines and treatments—
 - a ensure that the Australian Health Department works in close co-operation with Aboriginal and Islander medical personnel;
 - b study the value of the traditional methods and medicines, plants and minerals used by Aborigines and Islanders in treatment of diseases; and
 - c study the effect of environmental problems on their health.

- 4 Expand and give greater Government recognition and support to Aboriginal medical services (including roving medical teams) concentrating on the preventative and educational aspects of medical care as well as the treatment of existing problems. These services should participate in the training of Aboriginal and Islander health workers.

H Education

- 1 Recognising that the general education policy of the Party applies to everyone in Australia—
 - a introduce special education programmes for Aborigines and Islanders at all levels. Such programmes will include—
 - i bilingual teaching (i.e. in English and in the preferred indigenous languages) where practicable and desirable;
 - ii pre-school education for every Aboriginal and Islander child;
 - iii adult education as broadly as possible;
 - iv training Aborigines and Islanders as teachers and teacher-aides;
 - v technical and managerial training and seeking the co-operation of the trade union movement in recognising traditional skills;
 - vi funds to expand the general availability of courses of study at post-secondary institutions in race relations and Aboriginal and Islander society;
 - vii encouragement of Aboriginal and Islander communities to participate in their own education and planning services; and
 - b conduct a national inquiry into Aboriginal and Islander education to form the basis for future policy.

I Employment

- 1 Ensure that Aborigines and Islanders receive at least the standard rate of pay for the job and receive the same industrial protection as others living in Australia.
- 2 Promote and provide career and employment opportunities to the maximum extent for Aborigines and Islanders of all ages and backgrounds.

J History and Culture

- 1 Ensure that every child in Australia is taught and encouraged to understand the history and culture of Aboriginal and Island Australians, as an integral part of the history of Australia as approved by Aboriginal and Island people. The programme will be extended to adults wherever practicable.
- 2 Establish a statutory and autonomous Gallery of Aboriginal Australia as a real acknowledgement of the uniqueness and quality of Aboriginal and Islander culture.

3. Recognising that aspects of traditional culture are secret to particular members of Aboriginal and Islander communities—
 - a legislate to preserve such secrecy in accordance with the wishes of those persons;
 - b legislate to ensure the return, where appropriate, of significant or sacred objects to their traditional owners.
4. Negotiate with the Australian Broadcasting Commission and other sections of the media to broadcast regularly a session presenting a programme in various Aboriginal and Islander languages spoken in the area.
5. Encourage and assist the publication and distribution of material in indigenous languages.

K Consultation

1. Consult with the Aboriginal and Island people and communities, and have regard to their views and implement only those programmes approved of and accepted by them and in particular ensure that—
 - a such consultation is real rather than token, by taking account of the way in which such people and communities choose to reach decisions;
 - b in all relevant Government departments adequate staff levels are maintained and procedures to comply with this policy; and
 - c where funds are paid to, or administered by, state and territory governments, those governments comply with this policy.

2 The Arts

A Introduction

Labor believes that—

The Arts are a vital factor in individual and social developments.

The development of the Arts and recreation facilities and the widespread accessibility of such facilities is a fundamental need in our society.

Such development should take place within a framework of educational policies, and particularly policies of continuing education. The provision of adequate facilities to enable greater participation and involvement in the Arts is a responsibility which requires the co-operation of National, State and Local Government and proper accountability for expenditure.

B Proposals

In accordance with these principles, a Labor Government will give priority to—

- 1 Developing strong teaching programmes (in primary and secondary schools) to encourage appreciation of, and participation in, the performing and creative arts.
- 2 Maximising the use of existing buildings and facilities for cultural and creative purposes.
- 3 Encouraging the performing arts in local communities.
- 4 Redefining the role and function of the Australia Council to give emphasis to research, education in the Arts, the assessment of the cultural needs of local communities, and the provision of assistance to community projects, but not so as to end the Council's role in providing support funds and grants to the arts and artists.
- 5 Encouraging freedom of expression in the Arts, experimentation and the development of new ideas and talents.
- 6 Ensuring that imported performing arts activities do not close off development and employment opportunities for Australian performers.
- 7 Encouraging arts activities in special interest areas such as children, youth, Aborigines, ethnic groups, workplaces, pensioners and disadvantaged persons.
- 8 Granting the Australian National Gallery statutory independence to purchase works of art, subject only to its overall budget for acquisitions.

3 Communications

A Introduction

Labor believes that—

Access to information in the broadest sense is a right of all people and that facilitating the flow of information ought to be one of the prime responsibilities of government.

The development of democracy and tolerance will be fostered by the encouragement of as wide a range of entertainment, opinion and cultural interests as possible.

There is a need to ensure the maximum freedom of the press. For example, freedom from government censorship of editorial policy and newsgathering from unduly restrictive defamation laws, and from monopoly control through over-concentration of private ownership in too few hands.

Freedom of the electronic media should be encouraged by the licensing of radio and television stations to ensure that as wide and diverse a range of programmes as possible is available to cater for the interests, majority and minority, of all sections of urban and rural communities.

The broadcasting spectrum belongs to the Australian people and shall be used only under licence in the public interest.

Monopoly ownership of mass communications resources must be resisted.

In Australia, the aims of freedom and diversity in communication systems must be accompanied by the fostering of an independent national identity and culture, a process in which the media have a vital role to play.

It is the responsibility of the Australian Parliament to determine, and provide guidelines for, the maintenance and development of communication systems in the interests of the community as a whole.

In accordance with these principles and to establish improved communication systems, a Labor Government will—

B Research and Information

- 1 Establish an independent Communications Research and Information Centre the function of which will be to—
 - a collect and freely disseminate information on all aspects of present and future communications matters;
 - b provide an independent source of public information on technical, economic and social planning in communications;
 - c initiate and fund research; and
 - d assist those appearing before the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal in provision of information and analysis.

C Publishing

- 1 Provide special assistance towards the publication, printing and distribution of newspapers, books, magazines and other printed material which are fully produced in Australia.
- 2 Provide special assistance towards the production and distribution of recorded Australian music, video cassettes and similar material.
- 3 Initiate further study into the feasibility of fostering the establishment of a newspaper, independent of both government and existing private interests, conducted by those who produce it.
- 4 Undertake a continuing review of the laws of copyright to ensure adequate protection for the originators of artistic, literary and other creative forms, whilst at the same time guaranteeing the community the fullest access to its cultural heritage.

D The Administrative Structure of Broadcasting

- 1 Develop a structure comprising—
 - a a Broadcasting Advisory Council comprised of representatives of the national, commercial and public broadcasting sectors and community interests, with the functions of—
 - i assessing the needs of the Australian community and the industry in respect of radio, television and associated communication facilities;
 - ii considering, and commenting on, planning and research material for the development of broadcasting services;
 - iii acting as a liaison body between the various sectors of the broadcasting system and the public, and receiving and recording complaints or comments in respect of broadcasting standards;
 - iv overseeing the administration of technical standards;
 - v consulting with, and advising, the Department of Post and Telecommunications on the overall management and planning of the radio spectrum, or on any matter relevant to the broadcasting functions of the Department;
 - vi developing social standards in relation to broadcasting programmes, particularly the elimination of sexist and racist attitudes; and
 - vii reporting regularly to Parliament;
 - b an Australian Broadcasting Tribunal, whose independence, fairness and impartiality will be ensured and whose functions will be—
 - i to issue and renew licences in the commercial and public sectors, and conduct inquiries on specific matters;

- ii to conduct all proceedings in public with interested parties and members of the public encouraged to make submissions on all matters; and
- iii to report regularly to parliament.

E The Australian Broadcasting Commission

- 1 Ensure that the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC)—
 - a fulfils its continuing responsibility for maintaining and developing, on a nationwide basis, the highest standards of news, information, entertainment, comment and artistic expression in a manner which reflects the diversity of community needs, and to this end will conduct periodic independent inquiries to investigate and report into all aspects of the operation and responsibilities of the ABC;
 - b has greater flexibility in its operations and be open and democratic in its procedures in discharging its broadcasting functions;
 - c is adequately funded on a triennial basis;
 - d is free from political interference;
 - e has a Commission which shall include three members chosen by the Broadcasting Advisory Council and two members elected by the staff of the ABC;
 - f is removed from the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Public Service Board, but has internal rules, regulations and procedures which conform with proper standards in the administration of public expenditure and open democratic procedures in staff appointments and control;
 - g provides comprehensive FM services offering alternative programmes in this portion of the spectrum;
 - h broadcasts programmes which, as far as possible, are equally available to rural communities as to the cities;
 - i extends its post-broadcasting facilities to ensure that subject to copyright laws, transcripts, sound and video tapes of broadcast material be made readily available at moderate cost as an educational and information service; and
 - j has adequate funds to develop and use new technologies such as teletext.

F Commercial Radio and Television

- 1 Whilst recognising the important contribution of existing commercial radio and television stations, by negotiating with the industry, seek to encourage diversity of programming and increasingly higher levels of Australian programme content in the commercial sector.
- 2 Whilst acknowledging the need for the commercial sector to obtain adequate advertising revenue to ensure its economic viability, encourage — whether by means of subsidy, taxation

concessions or quotas — this sector to use the services of Australian performers, producers and technicians in the production and broadcasting of Australian programmes.

- 3 Impose a limitation on the ownership of radio and television services by newspaper interests.

G Public Broadcasting

- 1 Recognising that the development of public radio stations is an important means of increasing participation in the communications process and of contributing a diversity of views and cultural interests to broadcasting—
 - a give technical support in the establishment of public radio stations, and develop means of giving appropriate financial support to public broadcasting;
 - b ensure that public broadcasting stations are allocated sufficient transmitting power to cover their areas of service, on the same basis as commercial and national stations;
 - c provide funds to the Public Broadcasting Association of Australia for specific purposes and on the basis of strict accountability;
 - d ensure that public radio stations are autonomous in their operations, have sufficient freedom to develop new and innovative forms of programming, and reflect the social, political or cultural interests of geographical areas, ethnic groups, or non-profit institutions such as co-operative societies, trade unions, or educational bodies;
 - e abolish the special broadcasting service and develop ethnic broadcasting as a facility controlled by ethnic communities themselves with government funding arrangements administered through existing organs of government; and
 - f arrange for public stations to receive advice and assistance from the various Australian Government Departments involved in social welfare and community or regional development.
- 2 Facilitate the introduction of public television services, as circumstances permit.

H New National Television Channel

- 1 Depending on the circumstances existing at the time of the election of a Labor Government, aim to establish a new national television channel independent of the ABC and the commercial television sector which, in addition to any other facilities which it may provide, will—
 - a have as its main purpose the fostering of a national and cultural identity, supporting the Australian film and television industry, and disseminating programmes of educational interest;
 - b be a publisher of programmes, not a producer;

- c broadcast initially for a limited number of hours per day;
- d consult and co-operate with State Governments, universities and other tertiary education institutions, and such bodies as the Australian Film Commission, the Australia Council, and the Film and Television School, in relation to the production and presentation of programmes;
- e be a means of providing both wider accessibility to the performing and creative arts in Australia and continuing education; and
- f screen foreign material obtained from sources other than the United Kingdom and the United States.

I Films

- 1 Continue to support the growth of a national film industry and in particular—
 - a act to remove existing restrictive trade practices between film distributors and exhibitors;
 - b continue to encourage independent film producers by the provision of investment through the Australian Film Commission;
 - c require overseas distributors to give financial support from their earnings to Australian film production;
 - d establish a single buying agency for overseas film and television material;
 - e require the Australian Film Commission to collate and publish statistics relating to production and distribution of Australian film;
 - f abolish concessional taxation allowances for foreign films, except where equal treatment arrangements exist with educational films;
 - g make the technologies of film and television more available for use by the Australian people through community workshops, video access centres, and the encouragement of community television; and
 - h remove the Australian Film Commission from the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Public Service Board.

J Other Areas

- 1 Ensure that the principles of public interest, and accountability to the public in the development of all technological advances are adhered to.
- 2 Establish an independent overseas and Australian Wire News Service which is capable of supplying news and news film to newspapers and other media outlets which may choose to use it.
- 3 Provide financial assistance, where appropriate, to community interest groups concerned with the media.

- 4 Establish a children's Television Workshop to encourage the production and distribution of Australian children's television programmes.
- 5 Update and rationalise library facilities throughout Australia and encourage the use of libraries as a freely accessible community resource providing—
 - a recreational material for reading, listening, and viewing;
 - b information, and
 - c advice.
- 6 Introduce an All Channels Receiver Act to lay down specifications for radio and television receivers in the interests of Australian consumers.
- 7 Develop the Ultra-High Frequency (UHF) band for television.
- 8 Legislate to control electromagnetic interference to consumer equipment.
- 9 Appoint members of statutory broadcasting bodies only after reference of proposed appointments to a Joint Committee of Parliament, with a view to securing appointments of persons independent of the political process and vested interests.
- 10 Provide for adequate frequency space for the proper and regulated development of Citizen Band Radio.
- 11 Ratify and implement international conventions relating to the protection of the rights of performers in the products of their work.
- 12 Review personal taxation rules to resolve the special problems arising from the fluctuation in incomes of the performing Arts.
- 13 The provision of broadcast time without cost to political parties for the purpose of electoral broadcasts and the exclusion of paid political advertising on radio and television.
- 14 In the development and use of a domestic communications satellite in Australia, a Labor government must be satisfied that Australia's security would not be endangered and that the following requirements are guaranteed—
 - a maintenance of the terrestrial system of internal communications;
 - b expansion by Telecom of telephone and broadcasting services to the needs of isolated rural communities;
 - c public investment in Telecom facilities is not jeopardised;
 - d maintenance of employment opportunities;
 - e no increase in private ownership monopoly of media and communications;
 - f public ownership and management of the satellite; and
 - g independence of news and cultural content.

4 Constitutional and Legal

A Introduction

Labor is committed to constitutional, legislative and administrative reforms for the purpose of achieving efficient and democratic government, a responsive national Parliament and an adequate and flexible division of powers between Commonwealth, State and Local Governments. A Labor Government will seek to implement the following reforms—

B Constitution Reform

Constitutional Change

The support of the Australian people will be sought for amendments to the Australian Constitution—

- 1 To guarantee the right to vote and ensure the principle of one-vote one-value in all Australian and State elections.
- 2 To provide for the simultaneous election of the Senate and House of Representatives.
- 3 To ensure that the Senate has no power to reject, defer or otherwise block money bills.
- 4 To provide that the Senate may delay for up to six months, but not reject, any other proposed law.
- 5 To provide that a government enjoying the confidence of the House of Representatives shall be permitted to hold office for the prescribed term.
- 6 To define and limit the powers of the Governor-General so as to ensure that he acts in accordance with the advice of the government enjoying the confidence of the House of Representatives.
- 7 To provide the Commonwealth Parliament with such powers as are necessary for national planning and the achievement of the Party's economic and social objectives.
- 8 To ensure that the High Court has final appellate jurisdiction in all questions.
- 9 To create a single uniform system of courts throughout Australia.
- 10 To invest the High Court with jurisdiction to give advisory opinions.
- 11 To provide for the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Machinery of Constitutional Change

- 12 A Labor Government will support and fund a people's popularly elected convention and involve to the maximum extent the Australian people in the process of constitutional change.
- 13 Labor will seek to amend the Constitution to provide for its alteration by a simple majority of the electorate.

Federalism

- 14 Adjustment of the relationships among National, State, Territory, Regional and Local authorities to enable rational economic decision-making and resource allocation, effective provision of public services, recognition of local needs and aspirations, and maximum opportunity for participation in the decision-making process.
- 15 The interchange of legislative powers between the Australian and State Parliaments where appropriate.
- 16 Joint planning and co-operative development with the States of programmes of national significance, where the national government has insufficient constitutional power.
- 17 Provision to the States and Territories of sufficient funds to enable them to maintain effective services without resorting to inappropriate or inequitable methods of taxation.
- 18 Continued development of regional programmes and structures, utilising regional boundaries employed by the States wherever appropriate. The amalgamation and regional organisation of local government to be specifically encouraged.

Australian Parliament

The reform of Parliament to provide for—

- 19 The expansion and development of the committee system of the Senate as a mechanism for continuous review of government activity.
- 20 In conjunction with other proposed changes to the role of the Senate, the location of all Ministers in the House of Representatives.
- 21 The rostering of Ministers in both Houses at question times.
- 22 The provision of adequate machinery for the initiation and consideration of non-government legislation in both Houses.
- 23 The development of legislation committees in the House of Representatives.

Constitutional and Democratic Principles of General Application

- 24 The reform of State Upper Houses and, ultimately, their abolition.
- 25 The definition and limitation of the powers of State Governors.
- 26 In bicameral parliaments, elections of both Houses to be synchronised.
- 27 The reform of electoral laws to guarantee the right to vote, ensure that it can in practice be exercised, and to ensure the principle of one-vote one-value.
- 28 Electoral laws to provide for—
 - a printing of party affiliations and photographs of candidates on ballot papers;
 - b drawing of positions of candidates on ballot papers in single-member electorates;

- c closure of the polls at 6.00 p.m.; and
- d mobile polling booths in isolated areas.
- 29 In single-member electorates, adoption of a system of optional preferential voting.
- 30 The public declaration of financial interests by Members of Parliament, Territorial and Local Governments and their immediate families, the staff of Ministers and Shadow Ministers, and journalists accredited to parliaments.
- 31 The up-dating of the rules relating to conflict of interest of public officials.
- 32 The payment of proportionate subsidies by governments to political parties and candidates.
- 33 The disclosure of donations or other assistance to political parties and candidates.
- 34 No Imperial Honours or Titles to be granted but appropriate recognition to be given for exceptional national or community service.
- 35 Colonial impediments on the power of the Australian and State governments to be removed.

Freedom of Information

- 36 The enactment of effective Freedom of Information legislation granting the public full entitlement to the disclosure of government and administrative decision-making subject only to the requirements of essential security and individual privacy.
- 37 Regular tabling in Parliament of full information on the operation of government and semi-government agencies. Records, resolutions and recommendations of conferences of Australian and State Ministers and officials to be tabled in their respective Parliaments.

C Civil Liberties and Law Reform

Constitutional Powers and Protections

- 1 The Constitution to be amended to enable the Australian Parliament to make laws with respect to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to provide for the introduction of an Australian Bill of Rights.
- 2 The Australian Parliament and State Parliaments to take such legislative and administrative steps as are necessary to fully protect and enforce fundamental human rights and freedoms against both government and private interference.
- 3 Australia, in accordance with its obligations under the United Nations Charter, to pass laws and to press for worldwide and regional implementation and enforcement of international covenants on human rights and fundamental freedoms. The States also to pass laws necessary for such implementation and enforcement.

Freedom of Expression

- 4 The censorship law to conform with the principle that adults be entitled to read, hear and see what they wish in private and in public, subject to adequate provisions preventing persons being exposed to unsolicited material offensive to them and preventing conduct exploiting, or detrimental to, the interests of children.
- 5 Restrictions on freedom of expression of public servants and former public servants to be reduced to the minimum necessary for the conduct of the affairs of state.
- 6 Specific measures to be taken to ensure the full enjoyment throughout Australia of the right of peaceful assembly and protest.

Equality and Non-Discrimination

- 7 Legislative and administrative action to be instituted by the Australian and State governments to overcome discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, language, sex, sexuality, age, status, creed or politics.

Privacy and Reputation

- 8 The right to privacy to be protected by the laws of the Australian and State Parliaments, and vigilant administration of those laws.
- 9 Evidence obtained by illegal invasion of privacy to be prima facie inadmissible in Court proceedings.
- 10 The law on defamation to be made uniform throughout Australia and to be simplified and expressed so as to ensure a proper balance between the right to freedom of expression and the right of a person not to be exposed to unjustifiable attacks on honour and reputation.

Security

- 11 Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) to be subjected to independent financial audit and to periodic judicial review to ensure that it complies with its charter, it operates within the law, it does not unjustifiably infringe civil liberties, and that it is responsible to government.
- 12 The Attorney-General to be required to make an annual report to Parliament—
 - a on the working of ASIO, any infringements of its governing regulations and action taken in regard to such infringements; and
 - b on the use, for national security purposes or otherwise, of electronic surveillance devices and the operation of legislation in relation thereto.
- 13 ASIO to be forbidden to make personal records except where necessary for national security and from retaining them any longer than necessary for such security.

- 14 An adequate appeals tribunal to be established to hear and determine appeals from all people adversely affected by security assessment and provision to be made for effective redress to be available for all people unjustifiably disadvantaged by security and intelligence activities.
- 15 The relation of legislation and administrative arrangements relating to all Australian and State security and intelligence to comply with the principles embodied in the preceding paragraphs.

Criminal Process

- 16 Procedural criminal law to be amended in all jurisdictions so as to require—
 - a reform of police investigation and interrogation procedures to ensure that there is no maltreatment or unfairness and that no-one is compelled to incriminate himself;
 - b evidence obtained in contravention of the above to be prima facie inadmissible;
 - c powers to arrest without warrant to be reduced to the minimum and procedures by way of summons to be encouraged;
 - d the criteria applied by courts, Justices and the police in making bail decisions to be clarified and reformed;
 - e everyone charged with a criminal offence to be brought to trial without delay; and
 - f trial by jury in all serious criminal cases.

General Law Reform

- 17 Law reform legislation to be the result of maximum public discussion and participation both prior to, and following, the introduction of legislation into Parliament.
- 18 Procedures to be established whereby individuals can initiate review of legislation which produces unfair, unjust or unintended results.
- 19 Implementation of class action procedures or other appropriate means of ensuring legal redress for multiple small claimants in consumer, civil rights, welfare, environment and similar matters.
- 20 Reform of the law of standing to ensure effective access to the courts, especially in environment protection and other major public interest matters.
- 21 Expansion of the powers and facilities of the Australian Law Reform Commission to enable it to adequately advise on all aspects of law reform.
- 22 Simplification of the laws and reduction of costs of litigation especially by elimination of unnecessary procedures.
- 23 Publication of all legislation in consolidated form at frequent intervals.
- 24 Uniformity in the content of law and administration of justice to be encouraged wherever possible.

- 25 Imprisonment not to be imposed in default of payment of costs in any proceedings.

Administrative Law

- 26 All delegated legislation to be publicised and subject to disallowance by Parliament. Such legislation not to unduly trespass on civil rights and liberties; not to make the rights and liberties of individuals unduly dependent upon administrative rather than judicial decisions; and to be concerned with administrative detail and not matters of substance.
- 27 The powers of the national Ombudsman to be increased to enable him to investigate fully any complaints made against any government agency and to take the necessary remedial action.
- 28 The expansion of the jurisdiction of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to review all ministerial, administrative and tribunal decisions, at the instigation of any adversely affected individual.

Criminal Law

- 29 The criminal law to be reformed in all jurisdictions by placing emphasis on prevention of crime, the protection of society, the compensation of victims and the rehabilitation of offenders rather than on punishment. Forms of punishment to exclude capital and corporal punishment.
- 30 Laws on rape to be reformed to protect the dignity of the victim and to minimise the trauma of the necessary investigations and trial procedures while maintaining the right of the accused to a fair trial.

Family Law

- 31 The Constitution to be amended or power referred by the States to the Australian Parliament to enable the jurisdiction of the Family Court to be extended to cover all family law matters.
- 32 The provision of sufficient judges, magistrates, court and counselling facilities to enable the proper administration of the Family Law Act in the spirit of that Act, particularly to enable delays in proceedings to be abolished and to eliminate overcrowding of court and counselling facilities.
- 33 The establishment of readily accessible Family Courts in suburban and regional areas.
- 34 The expansion of legal aid to ensure that no person is deprived of access to the Family Court.
- 35 Abolition of all fees imposed by the Australian Government in the Family Court.
- 36 Laws on contraception to be reformed so that all persons have the right to information, advice and techniques for controlling their reproductive function.

Business Law

- 37 The enactment of a national Companies Act to ensure a rational framework for business, its public accountability and the protection of consumers, shareholders and workers.
- 38 The establishment of a National Securities and Exchange Commission to oversee share trading, take-overs, company accounts and the compliance of companies with legal requirements.
- 39 The strengthening of the provisions of the Trade Practices Act and the expansion of the administrative resources for the enforcement of these provisions.
- 40 The regulation of all forms of insurance within the limits of constitutional power to be effected by the Australian Parliament.

Legal Profession

- 41 Inquiries to be undertaken into the composition, education, conduct and remuneration of the legal profession to make recommendations for reform in the public interest.

Legal Aid

- 42 The system of legal aid to be expanded so as to ensure that everyone has ready and equal access to the courts and to legal assistance.
- 43 Support for the establishment directly by the Australian and State Governments of a national Legal Aid Commission to operate and administer a unified public sector legal aid scheme and to co-ordinate legal aid throughout Australia, including the provisions of financial assistance to community based legal aid services.
- 44 An Australia-wide career service in legal aid to be retained, with legal aid offices to be established throughout Australia on a regional basis, so that all people have easy access to legal aid and services.
- 45 Legal aid offices to be engaged in community legal education and advice programmes and involved in class actions and matters of law reform where appropriate.

Resolutions

1979 National Conference

1 PUBLIC FUNDING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

This Conference congratulates the New South Wales Government on its announced intention to provide for public funding of election campaigns and to establish an inquiry into how this can best be done, and the Victorian Premier on his announced intention to provide for the financing of free time on radio and television for political parties in election campaigns. Conference urges the Federal Government and other State Governments to establish similar Public Inquiries with terms of reference which include consideration of—

- a the desirability of proportionate subsidies;
- b the disclosure of the source of donations;
- c the limitation of amounts to be spent on political advertising; and
- d the provision of free time on radio and television.

2 RECOGNITION OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Platform Clause 34 Section B of the Constitutional and Legal Platform shall take effect after the next new year honours list because of recommendations which may have been made already.

5 Consumer Affairs

A Introduction

Labor recognises that—

All citizens are consumers, whatever their status in society and wherever they live, and that differences in social position disadvantage consumers with lower incomes.

Consumers are increasingly dependent on a few powerful public and private institutions for the production and supply of their goods and services and therefore have less choice and are disadvantaged by having little bargaining power.

The rights of consumers must be considered, not just in transactions involving the purchase of goods, but also in the use of services and facilities, including legal and medical services, public and community services, leisure time facilities, the rental, purchase and use of land and dwellings.

The pursuit of excessively increased profit by producers and suppliers has been to the detriment of consumers, and had resulted in the once relatively competitive market place becoming dominated by a small, often foreign controlled, oligopoly of large corporations. Their growth and manipulations of production and supply have created new economic forces and power, which threaten not only consumers, but the future of small shopkeepers, producers, manufacturers and farmers.

Such abuse of economic power — including the misuse of advertising and the growth of market concentration — has placed consumers in a position of powerlessness relative to the manufacturer, distributor and retailer, and has led to the exploitation of consumers by—

- a removing prices from effective market control;
- b restricting and concealing information essential to informed decision-making by consumers; and
- c obscuring real social needs and distorting social values.

In these conditions, large corporations should be responsible to, and responsive to, the societies in which they operate. Government, industry and consumers share a collective responsibility for the social problems which confront modern industrial societies.

B Principles

Labor believes that—

- 1 Political freedom is only meaningful when society is free of economic injustice, gross inequality and poverty, and when the economy serves the interests of all the community and ensures an equitable distribution of wealth, goods, services and information.

- 2 Governments have the capacity to plan the economy equitably and that this power be used to—
 - a create greater equality in the market place;
 - b eliminate abuses of economic power;
 - c protect consumers from exploitation;
 - d establish uniform legislation and practices throughout Australia;
 - e protect the interests of economically disadvantaged groups in particular; and
 - f encourage citizens to involve themselves and their organisations in consumer education and action.
- 3 The growth of informed public opinion, and the responsible use of organised consumer power can help to reduce economic injustices for the community as a whole, and extend democracy and people's control over important aspects of their own lives.
- 4 In accordance with this aim, citizens giving information relating to deliberate manipulation of product quality shall be protected by appropriate legislation.

C General Policy

Accordingly Labor will—

- 1 Establish a separate Department of Consumer Affairs to co-ordinate consumer affairs functions and to be responsible for—
 - a enforcement of legislation including Part V of the Trade Practices Act;
 - b consultation and co-operation with the States;
 - c representing and safeguarding the interests of consumers in the government decision-making process; and
 - d research into matters of consumer interest.
- 2 Ensure the National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council has a majority of members who represent consumer interests, and is adequately funded to make submissions to the Minister for Consumer Affairs, and to advise the Minister on ways and means to ensure a creative relationship between producers, Government and consumers particularly in relation to the production of goods.
- 3 Establish a public enquiry into the production, marketing and advertising of consumer goods.
- 4 Provide adequate credit counselling through shopfront neighbourhood advice centres.
- 5 Enact uniform legislation to regulate credit reporting including—
 - a licensing of persons providing credit reports;
 - b access of any person to a report on his or her credit status and the information on which it is based; and
 - c maintenance of the privacy of the consumer.

- 6 Provide greater protection for consumers in insurance contracts.

D Specific Policy

Administration and Decision Making

- 1 On the basis of the consumer goods inquiry, further strengthen, co-ordinate and standardise the workings of the Prices Justification Tribunal and the Trade Practices Commission to best serve the interests of consumers.
- 2 Ensure that consumers appearing before the Prices Justification Tribunal and other tribunals have access to legal aid where appropriate.
- 3 Re-organise the Prices Justification Tribunal in the interests of consumers and encourage it to—
 - a initiate investigations;
 - b establish its role as a prices monitor and regulator;
 - c investigate excessive retail prices; and
 - d regulate the inclusion of excessive packaging or advertising costs in prices.
- 4 Assume control of the Australian Government analytical laboratories and operate them in conjunction with other existing available laboratory resources for the formulation, notification and publication of information. Ensure, in co-operation with the Trade Practices Commission adherence to national standards on quality, quantity, performance, service, health and safety of consumer goods.
- 5 Give consumer representatives direct and effective representation on public authorities and Government decision-making, and ensure the widest possible access to relevant information in the private and public sectors to consumers.

Trade Practices Act

- 6 Broaden the definition of consumer to include farmers and small businessmen.
- 7 Include provisions governing harsh and unconscionable contracts.
- 8 Enable the Court on application by the Minister to 'freeze' and otherwise 'trace' consumers funds invested in misleading or deceptive promoters schemes and the Minister to act on behalf of groups of consumers eligible to be compensated for loss suffered as a result of such schemes.

Consumer Credit

- 9 a establish uniform credit legislation in co-operation with the States. Failing that, legislate where necessary, and revise and strengthen legislation and regulations relating to hire purchase, and credit lending institutions to ensure consumers' protection from unequal, unfair or unreasonable—

- i interest rates and terms;
- ii debt collection, and
- iii re-possession of goods;
- b require credit organisations to prepare full and meaningful information on credit terms and conditions and creditor's rights, and to make this available in a simple and readable form to people seeking credit; and
- c prohibit discrimination on the granting of credit to consumers on the basis of their sex, marital status, religion or cultural background.

Packaging and Labelling

- 10 Establish by legislation or in consultation with the States, codes and standards for the packaging, labelling and advertising of consumer goods, including—
 - a indices of thermodynamic efficiency for heating and cooking devices;
 - b contents labels which show specifically the existence of potentially harmful substances (such as fluorocarbons in aerosols and chloroform in toothpaste);
 - c details of relative costs of packaging and contents;
 - d provide for the standardisation of packaging; and
 - e outlaw deceptive, wasteful or environmentally destructive packaging.

Food and Drugs

- 11 Enact a National Food Act to obtain uniform food and drug standards, including—
 - a quality and performance standards;
 - b date marking and unit pricing;
 - c adequate labelling standards particularly in relation to ingredients, nutrition, storage and weight;
 - d manufactured frozen and refrigerated products to bear advice indicating deterioration by temperature, or because of age; and
 - e provision for people requiring specialised products (i.e. diabetics, heart cases, special diets) which will eliminate disadvantage and danger to their health.
- 12 Work for the establishment of a National Nutrition Policy which is preventative and promotes both health and longevity.
- 13 Encourage and provide material support for food growing and distributing co-operatives, both in urban areas and for primary producers.

Quality and Safety of Goods

- 14 Establish adequate procedures for examining the quality and safety of manufactured goods, particularly imported goods, and encourage greater consumer participation in Standards Authority of Australia Committees.

- 15 Take comprehensive and co-ordinated action in conjunction with the States where possible to prohibit the supply and provide for the recall of hazardous products.
- 16 Ensure that the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects and provides accurate and comprehensive statistics on product related accidents.
- 17 Co-ordinate existing Government agencies to—
 - a formulate motor vehicle standards and a motor vehicle recall code, and monitor the design and construction of motor vehicles in accordance with these;
 - b establish fuel economy or energy standards for all energy consuming products, and ensure the mandatory labelling of new motor vehicles with fuel economy figures in all new motor vehicle and appliance advertisements; and
 - c eliminate the current proliferation and duplication of standards bodies.

Housing

- 18 Encourage State Governments to—
 - a simplify and standardise lease documents;
 - b co-ordinate efforts to update and improve landlord and tenant legislation;
 - c take measures to reduce exorbitant rents for low income groups; and
 - d ensure that homeowners are protected from exploitation by makeshift building contractors and suppliers of building materials.

Information and Consumer Education

- 19 Encourage consumer education in particular by making provision for the inclusion of consumer education in primary and secondary curricula and in teaching training programmes, and make funds available for adult consumer education.
- 20 Instruct Commonwealth Government Departments to prepare public information on the likely impact of their decisions which may affect consumers, i.e. consumer impact statements. Use Federal powers, in consultation and conjunction with the States, to ensure that consumers are not denied access to information.
- 21 Establish a flexible Federal programme in co-ordination with the States to establish shop-front consumer information centres by—
 - a providing financial and material assistance to local councils or community action groups or committees;
 - b encouraging the inclusion of such shop-front centres in major shopping complexes;
 - c taking special steps to safeguard the interests of rural consumers, both in respect of prices and the range and quality of goods and services available; and

- d investigate the establishment of a national product information bank.
- 22 Establish Government approved consumer codes for radio and television stations which—
 - a are a condition of the commercial licence enforced by the Broadcasting Tribunal;
 - b place the onus on the media and advertisers to comply; and
 - c are based on acceptance of advertising codes and certification of advertisements to supplement processes of self-regulation, and that a comparable code be worked out with the States in relation to the printed media.

6 Defence

A Introduction

Australia's national security policy must be to ensure its territorial security, the security of overseas trade, and peaceful development as an independent nation. The primary object is the defence of its territories and maritime approaches.

Whilst defence and foreign policies must be based on the conviction that war can and must be prevented, and that Australia has a part to play in its prevention, nevertheless, a strong and relevant defence must be maintained and be so effective as to demonstrate beyond all doubt Australia's intention to defend itself and its vital interests.

Labor believes that all treaties and agreements on Defence matters to which Australia is party must be consistent with the requirements of the UN Charter.

In all treaties and agreements to which Australia is party, Australia's right to determine its own position on questions of war and peace must be maintained.

All Australian citizens within Australian territory are entitled to the protection of Australian defence forces. No concentration of defence effort in particular areas shall leave the situation of those in other parts of Australia's national territory neglected.

The defence capability of the nation depends primarily upon national development and the resulting capacity to manufacture, procure and maintain supplies and materials.

Labor is opposed to the private traffic of arms, to private military training and to the use of armed forces in industrial disputes.

B Self Reliance and Continental Defence

Labor's defence policy is in essence to develop a more self-reliant strategic posture based on the principal of continental defence sufficient to deter a conventional attack.

Detering a conventional attack would include the maintenance of forces sufficient to defeat any attack by a neighbouring power. It would also require any greater power to deploy so much of its forces for such a length of time that its losses would be out of proportion to any expected gain.

Such a defence posture will include—

- 1 The development of plans for the defence of Australia based on a thorough understanding of the requirements of Australian conditions, strategic needs and resources, and place less emphasis on compatibility with allied practices.

- 2 Reliable intelligence on military/political developments in Australia's region and maintenance of comprehensive surveillance of Australia's approaches.
- 3 The maintenance of standing forces competent to deal with more limited threats and minor incursions on Australian sovereignty.
- 4 Provision for the mobilisation of reserves in sufficient time to meet a major attack.
- 5 The maximisation of the value of limited resources. Labor will ensure that the procurement of new weapon systems is closely related to operational doctrines based on a posture of defence self reliance.
- 6 Labor supports regular consultations between the Australian Government and the States concerning the siting or extension of defence installations.

C The Australian Defence Force

Labor believes that all forces should be made up of volunteers. In the national interest, however, the right must be retained to raise a national service force should the security of Australia be threatened.

Labor will—

- 1 Maintain a properly balanced, flexible Defence Force equipped with weapons, transport and logistic systems appropriate to its task.
- 2 Labor will develop an Australian Defence Force functional command structure with a decentralised organisation.
- 3 Maintain the regular force at a viable level whilst maintaining the citizen reserve as an essential force and as a means for training those with the wider skills required for general mobilisation.
- 4 Ensure tht all sections of the civilian population accept the forces' role through the latter's non-involvement in any civil unrest including industrial disputes.
- 5 Make the Force capable of deployment as part of a UN peacekeeping Force.

D Defence, Mobilisation and Procurement

Labor believes that, to achieve the objective of a secure Australia, defence supplies and equipment should where practicable, be procured within Australia.

Labor will—

- 1 Encourage Australian industries capable of conversion to defence production in time of war under an overall industrial mobilisation plan.
- 2 Ensure that procurement which of necessity is placed abroad, is obtained under contracts affording the maximum offset

purchasing advantages to Australia and the maximum scope for manufacture under licence within Australia.

- 3 In pursuit of the material development of the nation, provide and develop ports, airfields, railways and roads which will contribute to the mobility of the defence forces as well as to the material development of the nation.
- 4 Ensure exclusive government control over the manufacture and export of arms and munitions.
- 5 Ensure that the Australian Government has the powers to adequately control major strategic materials and resources. New weapons will be assessed against the requirements of current strategic operational and technological criteria.

E Conditions of Service

- 1 Recognising that service in the regular Defence Force constitutes one of the nation's essential occupations and insisting upon the highest of professional standards, Labor asserts that full and continuing attention must be paid to all aspects of conditions of service in order to attract and to retain all volunteer defence services.
- 2 Conditions of service of members must maintain parity with conditions of civilians of the same age and qualifications and must allow for the inherent disadvantages and special requirements of the profession of arms. Labor will provide war service homes, repatriation health benefits, civilian rehabilitation training, scholarships for their children, retirement and resettlement allowances for members of the forces.
- 3 Easier access must be given to the Court-Martial Appeals Tribunal and the Tribunal incorporated in the Federal Court of Australia.
- 4 Comprehensive and self-contained Australian military law must apply to Australian forces serving both inside and outside Australia, without precluding liability to local civil law.
- 5 The role of Military Ombudsman is to be developed and strengthened.
- 6 Defence Force pay and conditions be fixed on similar basis to public service.
- 7 Serving personnel should have the right to form and be members of associations in respect to their pay and conditions.

F Civil Defence and Natural Disasters Organisation

- 1 Under Labor the Australian Government will aid and supplement the States civil defence and emergency services, and will maintain and expand a professional civil defence service. The civil defence service should be able to buy specialised equipment for its own use if the availability of defence equipment during disasters cannot be guaranteed.

7 The Economy

A Introduction

Labor's economic policy objectives include—

Firstly, as a responsible party concerned for the welfare of all Australians, Labor aims to restore and maintain full employment and socially and environmentally appropriate economic growth with the lowest possible rate of inflation. Such economic management objectives contribute to lasting improvements in the living standards of the whole population, and to fulfilling the responsibility of Government to provide jobs for all who are able and want to work. However, Labor recognises that maximising our national welfare requires a rate of economic growth compatible with protection of the environment and conservation of resources.

Secondly, as a democratic-socialist party concerned to achieve a more just and equitable society, Labor's economic policy aims to redistribute income and wealth on an egalitarian basis, as well as to ensure that economic power is exercised on behalf of the people through its elected government, and not by private corporations against the national interest.

Labor's pursuit of its objective of a fully employed, low inflation, growing economy will be conducted with a full appreciation of the difficulties of achieving these objectives in the short term. The contractionary fiscal and monetary policies of the present government have deeply entrenched unemployment and reduced living standards in a ruthless but largely unsuccessful trade-off for reduced inflation.

Further—

Labor completely rejects the 'trade-off' approach as being wasteful, ineffective and inhumane, and believes that fiscal and monetary policies can be developed which will facilitate progress towards reducing unemployment and inflation.

However, the emergence in recent years of the phenomenon of concurrent high inflation, high unemployment and low growth indicates that new forces are at work in Australia and elsewhere, which must be recognised and confronted if Labor's objectives are to be realised.

In addition—

Fundamental structural changes are bearing on our economy and have made certain major economic assumptions inadequate. Such changes include—

- a the increasing concentration of ownership and control of industry, which is leading to the emergence of a powerful 'meso economic' group of corporations, many of which are foreign owned, which manipulate the market, and which do not conform to the behavioural pattern of the conventional multi-firm competitive model;

- b the rapid industrialisation of East and South-East Asia which is placing increasing competitive pressure on Australia's manufacturing industries. The global shifting of manufacturing industries by TNC's, their reaping of the economic benefits of the refinement of the international division of labour, and their operation through the export processing zones of the Asia-Pacific Basin;
- c the revolution in production methods now occurring through the rapid introduction and increasingly widespread use of new technology; the shift of private investment in Australia into extractive industries, energy-intensive resource-processing industries, and technology-intensive tertiary industries; and the move overseas by firms previously located in Australia; and
- d the developing world-wide energy crisis which is imposing inflationary pressures on our economy, and creating pressure for change in our pattern of production, behaviour, lifestyle and urban development.

In these circumstances reliance on conventional monetary and fiscal policies alone will clearly not be adequate. Nor will market forces of themselves create the environment necessary to achieve our objectives.

Labor believes a national economic and social strategy is required to give effect to its basic objectives. Such a strategy must involve medium and long term economic planning, specific industry, manpower and regional policies, an expanded interventionist role by government, and a responsible development of the public sector to satisfy social needs and provide employment.

Planning must be conducted in a democratic fashion, not merely because that is the political philosophy to which the ALP subscribes, but because planning is unlikely to be effective unless those whose lives are being influenced are genuinely consulted and become part of the decision-making process.

The ultimate concern of economic policy is the satisfaction of the needs and desires of the people. Unless Labor's comprehensive economic policy is adopted and implemented there is no possibility of the Australian people's legitimate aspirations for themselves and the nation being fulfilled.

B Economic Planning

A Labor Government will—

- 1 Establish or convert the following institutions as the primary institutions for implementing democratic national planning—
 - a an Economic Planning Advisory Council which will assist the Government to develop economic planning on a co-ordinated, co-operative and participatory basis. Its membership shall include representatives of the State Govern-

- ments, trade unions, employers and consumer interests, and serviced by a professional staff;
- b a restructured Treasury, which will have the task, in conjunction with other departments, and in addition to existing responsibilities for stable growth policies, of framing and monitoring medium and long term plans in the light of Government policy.
 - c a Department of Finance, a task of which will be to prepare public sector forward estimates and annual budgets consistent with the national strategy;
 - d an Australian Bureau of Statistics which will be responsible for the early and complete public availability of material relevant for informed decision-making. It will be independent of other government departments, as distinct from the deliberate emasculation perpetrated by the conservative Government; and
 - e other public instrumentalities (such as an Industries Assistance Commission, Prices Justification Tribunal and Trade Practices Commission) which will be required to advise Government on matters such as protection, competition and trade practices, price fixation and technological change. The Government will have ultimate responsibility for setting their objectives and terms of reference and co-ordinating their operations.
- 2 Initiate democratic national planning in order to relate activities of both the public and private sectors to the goals of society, and to influence the allocation of resources between the various sectors in the economy in accordance with priorities set by the national economic and social strategy.
 - 3 Include in the national economic and social strategy such aspects as sectoral economic growth targets, workforce requirements, levels and forms of protection, investment (both public and private), money supply growth guidelines, energy, environment, welfare, regional development and income redistribution policies, and response to structural and technological changes.
 - 4 Increase information available to, and seek feedback from the public, so that assumptions and reasoning behind the planning process as a whole will be made available to all interested groups, and thereby ensuring community participation in the planning process.
 - 5 Encourage constructive consultation (rather than confrontation as adopted by the conservative parties) between the Australian Government, employers, and the trade union movement within the framework of the ultimate responsibility of government for the economic welfare of the community.

- 6 Be innovative in economic management, using policy instruments which conservative parties, for doctrinaire reasons, refuse to use. These will include—
 - a intervening, where necessary, on both the demand and supply sides of the economy to achieve Labor's objectives;
 - b using overall instruments such as consultation, regulation, public-private sector competition, joint public-private sector ownership, government procurement programmes and nationalisation, as well as the other policies mentioned in the Industry Development and Short Term Policy sections of this Platform; and
 - c establishing or extending public enterprise where necessary to, combat anti-social monopoly, maintain or extend essential economic activity, facilitate restructuring of industry, maintain essential employment opportunities, or reduce foreign ownership and control of Australian industry and resources.
- 7 Accept the importance of small business and recognise their particular problems, and encourage and assist their growth by providing programmes to overcome their disadvantages.

C Short Term Policy

To complement the medium and long-term planning mechanisms outlined above, and to facilitate economic expansion without accelerating inflation or worsening the balance of payments, a Labor Government will—

- 1 Provide a stable framework for economic activity, recognising that major changes in policy bring disruptive economic consequences if introduced abruptly.
- 2 Use all the tools of economic policy, including variations in taxation, government spending, the exchange rate, money supply and interest rates, to maintain as stable a growth path as possible.
- 3 Keep an appropriate relationship between growth in the money supply and the prospective increase in prices and output, since too rapid an increase in the money supply may bring unacceptable inflation, and too slight an increase may result in reduced output in general, and severely damage the prospects of particular industries.
- 4 With the understanding and co-operation of the trade union movement, develop and implement a policy which will encompass prices, wage incomes, non-wage incomes, the social wage, taxation reform, and elimination of tax avoidance, and which will achieve a more equitable distribution of our national wealth and income, with the commitment to supporting the maintenance of real wages by quarterly adjustments and the passing on of the benefits of increases in productivity.

D Taxation

Recognising that taxation is a source of revenue, a fiscal instrument, a means of redistributing income and wealth, and a means of influencing private sector behaviour, a Labor Government will—

- 1 Reform the taxation system as far as possible to redistribute the burden of taxation in ways consistent with the philosophy of ability to pay and the need for an adequate minimum standard of living.
- 2 Maintain a progressive income tax on individuals, and avoid recourse to any form of concession which favours high income earners. In the area of company tax redress the imbalance of individual and company shares of income tax, and the imbalance within the company sector between small and big business enterprises.
- 3 Support tax indexation to ensure that the burdens and benefits of personal income tax are not distorted by inflation.
- 4 Reduce the scope for tax avoidance by implementing an effective legislative prohibition of tax avoidance activity, and where necessary utilise retrospective legislation to prohibit specific tax avoidance schemes.
- 5 Enhance the equity of the tax system by taxing large accumulations of personal capital above a floor level that is reviewed regularly and takes into account the special circumstances of farmers, small businessmen and aged people, and excludes the normal holdings assembled over a lifetime by persons and family units.
- 6 Where possible, abolish or reduce general taxes and tax concessions that encourage unnecessary replacement of labour by machines.
- 7 Introduce a Resource Rent Tax on highly profitable resource-based projects.
- 8 Ensure that foreign-earned income of Australian companies is taxed at Australian company tax rates.

E Federal-State Financial Relations

In recognition of the expanded rôle and responsibilities of the Australian, State, the Northern Territory and Local Governments, the interaction between those responsibilities, the growing disparities between the respective forces of finance, and the failure of the present federal financial arrangements to meet the needs of such governments, a Labor Government will—

- 1 Whilst reserving the power of income tax collections exclusively to the Australian Government, ensure that the States, Northern Territory and Local Governments are guaranteed an adequate share of Australian Government revenue through untied grants and specific purpose payments.

2. Involve all levels of government in co-operative moves to determine mutually agreed and consistent priorities for joint planning of functions for which the Australian Government provides finance.

F Foreign Ownership and Investment

Whilst recognising the extent to which the post-war development of the Australian economy was the result of the supply of capital, technology and knowhow by foreign corporations, Labor is greatly concerned at the extent to which our industry is foreign-controlled, and the likelihood that this foreign control of our economy will increase further unless preventative action is taken.

Labor believes that increasing foreign domination of the Australian economy by foreign-based TNC's endangers our national sovereignty and places our resources, technology, and the leading role in determining the future pattern of development, at the control of corporations whose interests are not necessarily in accord with the best interest of our nation. Vital economic decisions too often are made outside Australia without due regard to, or knowledge of the consequences for the Australian people. Furthermore, their international scale and enormous economic power impinge upon the effectiveness of the traditional tools of government economic management, and indeed reduce the authority of the elected government over the national economy.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will—

1. Reverse the current trend towards increased foreign domination of the Australian economy, by seeking increased Australian ownership and control of resources and enterprises, by carefully regulating foreign investment, and by developing a public sector capacity to undertake investment in industry.
 2. Establish clear guidelines for foreign investment to ensure that all proposals have net economic benefits before they are approved. Permit foreign investment only when it introduces beneficial new technology and expertise, increases employment, expands taxable capacity and/or otherwise shows itself to be in Australia's national interest.
 3. Expand the functions of the Foreign Investment Review Board to monitor TNC's in Australia including obtaining information on all relevant activities such as the structure and ownership of such enterprises, their investment, marketing and trading policies (including intra-company transactions and transfer-pricing practices), research and development policies, sources of finance, and employment levels and policies.
- Include trade union representation on the Foreign Investment Review Board.

- 4 In obtaining the required amount of capital from overseas, encourage an increasing portion of capital inflow on the basis of loan capital raised by the Government rather than equity capital.
- 5 Support the establishment of a comprehensive international information system on TNC's within the UN.
- 6 Supply information gathered by the TNC monitoring agency to the relevant trade unions, Australian companies, consumer groups and research organisations in Australia, as well as to all relevant international organisations such as the UN Centre on Trans-National Corporations, the International Labor Organisation (ILO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and appropriate international trade union organisations.
- 7 Support the adoption of an effective international code of conduct for TNC's that is legally enforceable and endowed with effective complaints and supervisory machinery, and as an interim measure, seek to establish bi-lateral or multi-lateral agreements with other countries incorporating the principles and otherwise voluntary international code of conduct for TNC's.
- 8 Take whatever action is available to it within its power to prevent the continuance of activities of TNC's that are against the interests of the Australian public, and if effective action is not possible through lack of legal authority, seek to obtain that authority.
- 9 Require Australian firms investing abroad to take account of the following criteria—
 - a the overseas operation must not be prejudicial to Australia's foreign relations;
 - b the overseas investment must contribute to the development of the countries in which the investment takes place, in accordance with the development strategy contained in the proposals for a New International Economic Order; and
 - c employment conditions in the overseas enterprise should be compatible with the Australian Government's attitudes to the rights of employees, and the overseas project must fit into Labor's programme for the national use of Australia's resources of capital, technical and management skills, and must not reduce net employment opportunities in Australia.

G Trade and International Development

Australia's prosperity depends substantially on international trade. Patterns of production in the various countries of the world offer opportunities for trade which would improve eco-

conomic well-being both in this country and in those countries with which we trade.

Therefore a Labor Government will—

- 1 Seek graduated liberalisation of world trade through mutually beneficial reductions in barriers to trade in a context where an appropriate adjustment assistance structure is in place in Australia and in circumstances where the advantages of trade are consistent with our national objectives.
- 2 Recognising that agricultural and mineral exports alone will not sustain Australia's economy, introduce strategic planning for trade with the aim of increasing the contribution to overseas earnings of our manufacturing, service and information industries.
- 3 Encourage active pursuit of new markets and the use of new approaches to old markets by offering subsidies for market development and incentives for improved export performance.
- 4 Improve government machinery to facilitate trade with new markets, small markets, and other governments and their instrumentalities, which will operate in co-operation with the private sector.

In the light of the severe inequalities in income and wealth between rich and poor countries and entrenched injustice in the present international economic system and recognising that the long term security and well being of all peoples depends on changing the present international economic system, a Labor Government will—

- 5 Support the New International Economic Order so as to facilitate rapid independent self-reliant development within less developed countries.
- 6 Support the UNCTAD proposal for a Common Fund and an integrated programme of commodity agreements for the stabilisation of prices and incomes of primary producers (including those in Australia).
- 7 Give high priority to research on technologies which are appropriate for use within developing countries, and within the Australian community, at the same time seeking to conserve energy and other resources.

Resolutions

1979 National Conference

1 SMALL BUSINESSES

Recognising the importance of small business in the Australian economy, and its special difficulties in raising finance and operating in an economic environment largely determined by the large corporations, Labor undertakes to upgrade the small business section of government and in particular, to—

- a provide access to equity and debt finance;
- b explore methods of reducing the tax burden;
- c negotiate with the States for reforms relating to workers' compensation insurance to reduce the burdens caused by the present rate of premiums;
- d provide facilities for management training;
- e co-ordinate with State bodies in providing advisory and counselling services;
- f provide continuing information to small business on opportunities offered by government regarding tenders, special grants and assistance schemes; and
- g monitor the effects on small business of the policies of government and public instrumentalities.

2 THE PUBLIC SECTOR

This Conference, recognises—

- a that the public sector is under a major threat which is causing the questioning of Government programmes and revenue raising, even though the Australian public sector is relatively small compared with those of other developed countries;
- b that public spending is productive and essential to the provision of such services as national security, education, health, income security and the legal, administrative and physical infrastructure for a secure, equitable and fulfilling community life;
- c that some economic activities can only be conducted efficiently and without exploitation when publicly owned and that some others operate more efficiently when there is some form of public participation;
- d that the public and private sectors are highly interdependent and that activities including public works to provide a balanced physical infrastructure, Government purchases of products and services, and education of the population underpin the development of the private sector; and
- e that the public sector provides large and relatively stable employment opportunities for the Australian labour force

and will have to be a major source of new job creation if sufficient employment is to be provided over the next decade for our growing labour force.

3 AIDS FOR PHYSICALLY DISABLED

That all sales tax be removed from items which are proven aids for physically disabled people.

4 ZONE ALLOWANCE REBATE

That the ALP on taking office would investigate the present Zone Allowance Rebate under the Income Tax Assessment Act within the following guidelines—

- a re-defining the current Zone A and B areas in the light of current day demographic patterns, industry development and cost structures;
- b fixing a level of rebate which would encourage decentralisation and northern development whilst compensating persons in these areas for the poor social facilities (hospitals, schools, etc.); the hardships of isolation and climatic condition and the greater cost of living in those areas; and
- c automatically indexing the Zone Allowance Rebate on an annual basis.

5 CONSUMER TAX

Labor is opposed to the extension of broadly based consumer taxes such as value added or retail turnover taxes, as being regressive and aggravating inequalities which Labor is committed to redress.

6 TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS

The ALP—

- 1 a notes the increasing concern about the role and activities of TNC's because—
 - i their operations tend to undermine the national sovereignty because they are often able to evade national controls and jurisdiction;
 - ii they are able to limit the influence of trade unions through their ability to play off one set of workers in one country against those in another; and
 - iii their activities can disrupt international economic relations by means of transfer pricing, restrictive business practices, and massive capital flows across national boundaries;
- b acknowledges, nevertheless, that TNC's have been powerful agents of economic growth, for instance in the diffusion of technology and in the mobilisation of financial resources; and
- c whilst pledging support for any measure which has as its objective, effective international and national control of TNC's and applauding work done by the UN (ILO and

UNCTAD), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Economic Community (EEC), and the Council of Europe towards this end, recognises that ideal measures at the moment are only a remote possibility.

The Party therefore resolves to—

- 2 Overcome the greatest obstacle to a correct appraisal of the role of TNC's, namely the lack of information on their activities by, as a first step, establishing an appropriate Australian monitoring body.
- 3 Support the establishment of a comprehensive international information system on TNC's instructed by the UN Centre on Transnational Corporations by the UN Commission on TNC's.
- 4 Instruct the appropriate Australian monitoring body to comply with common statistical and accounting standards laid down by the special international agency to seek to identify the major activities of TNC's, and disentangle the intricate network of companies and subsidiaries which form the most obscure aspect of their operations.
- 5 Support the demands of the group of 77 developing countries and of the trade unions, that measures must be developed which aim at controlling TNC activities, and that the UN code be legally enforceable and endowed with effective complaints and supervisory machinery.
- 6 Encourage the implementation of voluntary codes at the international level until legislative enforcement is achievable provided effective complaints and supervisory machinery is established which allows governments and trade unions to submit individual cases where the code has been infringed.
- 7 Transform the principles of appropriate voluntary codes into legislation by bi-lateral or multi-lateral (especially regional) agreements between governments until the drawing up of multi-lateral conventions which can be ratified and be given legal force by national governments can be achieved.
- 8 Prevent by means of code, the competitive bidding for foreign investment by the provision of overgenerous incentives which allow TNC's to play off one government against another in order to extract the greatest financial gain at the expense of the community.
- 9 Support the work of UNCTAD in respect of a code to control the transfer of technology and to establish guidelines in relation to restrictive practices.
- 10 Strengthen the ability of governments and trade unions to deal and negotiate with TNC's by the provision of technical aid and the development of technical co-operation.
- 11 Encourage trade unions to play a key role, particularly through such international bodies as the International Confer-

ence of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), as well as international union secretariats, in building up an international countervailing power to the TNC's.

- 12 Facilitate the Australian TNC's monitoring body obtaining regular detailed information on the following points—
 - a the structure of the corporation, the main shareholders and the extent of local participation affiliated and subsidiary firms and the composition of the board of directors and other decision making bodies;
 - b investment and marketing policies, international trade (in particular intra-company transactions and transfer-pricing practices), research and development activities, sources of finance, plant locations and employment levels; and
 - c employment and training policies, conditions of work and industrial relations.
- 13 Pursue appropriate government action in the form of control measures in relation to TNC's in, for instance, the following areas—
 - a planning — ensuring that TNC's observe and contribute to the fulfilment of the economic, social, environmental and technological objectives of the country;
 - b economic democracy — the development of proposals to extend economic and industrial democracy;
 - c public ownership — the use of public enterprise to challenge the dominance of TNC's in key industrial sectors;
 - d local participation — the negotiation of appropriate joint ventures with local capital;
 - e finance—
 - i control of remittances of profits and capital, and of transfer pricing;
 - ii the elimination of those financial incentives which discriminate in favour of foreign and against local capital.
 - f regulation—
 - i the establishment of appropriate employment and training procedures, conditions of work and trade union rights in accordance with ILO standards.
 - ii enabling trade unions to undertake international sympathy action by repealing laws which create obstacles to such action;
 - iii encouragement of research and development within national boundaries.
 - g research — promotion of research studies on TNC's.

8 Education

A Objectives

Labor believes education should—

Promote love of freedom and justice and develop critical perception, ability to choose intelligently, capacity for self-government and a sense of social responsibility.

Be recognised as vital, and justified, for its contribution to individual development, and to human relationships, rather than being regarded solely as an adjunct to the economic system.

Instil belief in the equal rights of all people and respect for their essential humanity, irrespective of ethnic origin, colour, sex, age, creed or political belief.

Ensure free and harmonious development of intellect, physique, emotions and abilities, to the fullness of individual capacity.

Be seen as a life-long process so that, while schooling will continue to be normally the province of the young, opportunities should be available for individuals to undertake their secondary or continuing education at any stage in their adult lives.

Not be seen as the responsibility of the formal education systems alone, so that Government strategies in education should be aimed at developing a co-ordinated network of educational facilities responsive to community and individual needs and committed to diversity, innovation, equality of opportunity, accessibility, the maximum devolution of responsibility, and the enhancement of the quality of life of all people.

In Australia, be designed to enable people to cope with the total environment in the broadest possible way, including the recognition of Australia's place within the world community and the economic and social impact of developing countries on Australian patterns and attitudes in the future; and that Governments must—

- 1 Ensure the provision of compulsory education of the highest standard and provide a universal, free, secular system of education open to all citizens.
- 2 Provide financial assistance to enable diversity of education provision, in keeping with the principle of equality of educational opportunity and the principle of need established through the various Commissions as created from time to time, and the principle of positive discrimination for the disadvantaged.
- 3 Recognise the growing importance of leisure and the necessity to provide both facilities and training for recreational and

cultural activities. Governments must acknowledge in a positive way the value of libraries, museums, art galleries and the like as repositories of much of the cultural and intellectual attainments of mankind, and should aim at developing a co-ordinated network of such facilities responsive to community and individual needs; and that—

- a the community and parents have the right to be informed and consulted about educational activities and programmes; and
- b that everyone has the right to education.

B The Role of the Australian Government

Accordingly, a Labor Government will—

- 1 In co-operation with State governments, provide and operate educational services which shall be available to all without charge.
- 2 Provide benefits to students, maintain a liaison with the States and with other countries on matters relating to education, undertake research relating to education, and conduct educational services.
- 3 In its provision of benefits to students, ensure that there is a positive discrimination in favour of disadvantaged groups.
- 4 In co-operation with the States, accept responsibility on a national basis for achievement of acceptable standards in all schools and post-secondary educational institutions, including the maintenance of full funding to Colleges of Advanced Education and Universities.
- 5 Be responsive to the special problem of youth unemployment and implement such measures as may be undertaken through the various sectors of education to meet the problem.
- 6 Be mindful of the problem of redundancy of skills which is associated with the introduction of some new technology, and take action through the education sectors to combat the problem.
- 7 Assist in areas of need by providing financial assistance through independent statutory commissions which may be established from time to time, having the obligation to report publicly.
- 8 In determining the membership of all Commissions, have regard to the principle of professional and community representation.

C Tertiary Education

- 1 Maintain the independent Tertiary Education Commission.
- 2 Allocate Australian Government finance—
 - a in relation to needs identified; and
 - b triennially on the basis of recommendations by the Commission.

- 3 Ask the Commission to examine the relationship between all post-secondary areas with a view to rationalisation and cross-accreditation.
- 4 With the aim of providing a major extension of post-secondary opportunities within comprehensive institutions which provide both ease of access and a wide range of courses, ask the Commission to examine and make positive recommendations in relation to—
 - a the provision of post-secondary education for disadvantaged groups including migrants, women, Aborigines and handicapped people;
 - b recognition of appropriate overseas post-secondary qualifications;
 - c increased emphasis on, and maximisation of, community use of education facilities;
 - d the need for research into and development of programmes designed to eliminate sex and life-style bias in education, and to provide full educational opportunity for both sexes;
 - e the development of special programmes to correct racial prejudice and to allow the informed study by all Australians of Aboriginal culture, history and language;
 - f methods of bringing all sectors up to a satisfactory standard; and
 - g the need for positive discrimination in favour of the Technical and Further Education (TAFE) sector.
- 5 Encourage the conduct of experiments into new methods of educational communication.

D Tertiary Allowances

- 1 Eliminate economic circumstances as a barrier to entry to post-secondary education by—
 - a provision of post-secondary education without fees;
 - b provision of means-tested grants to full-time students in approved courses. Such allowances will be adjusted annually in accordance with changes in the Consumer Price Index, provided that no criteria other than needs will be used in the allocation of Tertiary Education Allowances; and
 - c provision of such other funding arrangements as may be necessary to achieve these objectives.
- 2 Investigate methods of removing all **social** barriers to entry to post-secondary education.

E Primary and Secondary Education

Australian Schools Commission

- 1 Retain the independent Australian Schools Commission to examine and determine the needs of students in government and non-government primary and secondary schools and recommend grants which the Australian Government should

make to the States to assist in meeting the requirements of all school-age children solely on the basis of needs and priorities.

- 2 Require the commission in making recommendations for such grants to the States to have regard to—
 - a the primary obligation of government to provide and maintain government schools systems of the highest standard open to all children;
 - b the number of students enrolled in the various schools; and
 - c the need to bring all schools up to acceptable standards.
- 3 Allocate Australian Government finance—
 - a in relation to needs identified; and
 - b triennially on the basis of recommendations by the Commission.
- 4 Maintain the Commission as an initiator of educational programmes of national importance, in co-operation with the States.
- 5 Ask the Commission to examine and make positive recommendations in relation to—
 - a the provision of educational programmes for disadvantaged groups, including migrants, Aborigines and handicapped people;
 - b increased emphasis on, the maximisation of, community participation in schools and use of educational facilities;
 - c the need for research into, and development of, programmes designed to eliminate sex and life style bias in education and to provide full and equal educational opportunity for both sexes;
 - d the development of special programmes to correct racial prejudice and to allow the informed study by all Australians of Aboriginal culture, history and language;
 - e the training and provision of teachers proficient in the language of Aboriginal children and ethnic groups for schools where such services are needed;
 - f innovations, programmes, curriculum research and development; and
 - g means of eliminating functional illiteracy—

Other Australian Government Activities

- 6 Review scholarships and allowances to school students to ensure that they are effective in enabling students to attend school adequately equipped and provided for, priority being given in cases of hardship.
- 7 Make allowances to assist the education of students suffering disadvantages of illness, physical and mental handicaps, poverty or geographical isolation.
- 8 Extend to all secondary students, above the minimum age at which exemption may be obtained, the allowances paid on a

means-tested basis to students in their last two years of schooling in addition to allowances provided in 6 above.

Corporal Punishment

- 9 Prohibit corporal punishment in all government and non-government schools.

Rural Education

- 10 Require all Educational Commissions to investigate the particular problems of education in rural and isolated areas, to ensure that living in a rural or isolated area does not of itself constitute an educational disadvantage.
- 11 ACT Schools System
Endorse the independence of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Schools Authority and provide financial support.

F Vocational Training

- 1 Require the Tertiary Education Commission to review continually, within the context of the overall educational process, the relationship between vocational training and manpower needs. This will take place in consultation with employers and trade unions, State Government departments, and professional and community institutions. Recommendations will be made to the Australian and State Governments on training and manpower requirements in all professions and trades, and will take into account the need for women to have access to all forms of vocational training.
- 2 Encourage the implementation of ILO Convention 140 in respect of paid study leave, with the intention of securing its early ratification.

G Rights of Other Cultures

- 1 Ask the Education Commissions to initiate, after consultation with ethnic groups, the introduction and appreciation of ethnic cultures and languages in the normal education programmes. Provide in each metropolitan area a centre to encourage the teaching of each minority language and support for a diversified approach to meet the language needs of ethnic communities. Such a programme will be designed to honour Australia's international obligation to provide for the needs of ethnic groups within Australia and to promote cultural diversity.

H Library Services

Assume responsibility for ensuring that information is available to the individual citizen. As libraries have an essential role in the acquisition, organisation, preservation and dissemination of information, it will in conjunction with the States, and in close consultation with the Education Com-

missions, be responsible for co-ordinating and encouraging library information services. The aims will be those of establishing standards, improving efficiency, and encouraging the widest possible use of, and access to, information in a variety of media.

Resolutions

1979 National Conference

1 AUTONOMY OF STUDENT ORGANISATIONS (RECONFIRMATION)

To reaffirm the 1977 National Conference Resolution 27 (Education) "Autonomy of Student Organisations"

The Labor Party upholds the right of students to autonomous control of their student organisations and believes that students have the democratic right of decision-making within their unions and federated bodies with regard to revenue raising, administration and policy.

9 Employment

A Introduction

Unemployment is the most important single issue facing the Australian community. Hundreds of thousands of Australians are being denied their right to a livelihood and the dignity, self-respect and opportunity for self-fulfilment through work, to which all members of the community must be entitled. The social tensions associated with unemployment are turning sectors of the Australian people against themselves and threatening the essential stability of the community. The waste of personal and economic resources involved with unemployment prevents constructive economic management, retards the development of society, and undermines the basis of government finance.

Labor will give the highest priority to measures designed to achieve an immediate reduction in levels of unemployment and to a coherent long term plan to ensure that employment opportunities are available to all who want to work regardless of race, sex or marital status. It is aware that in the context of an unstable world economic system and the pressures for fundamental structural change in the Australian economy, the attainment of full employment will be a difficult goal to achieve and will require far-reaching changes. Labor will consult with all sectors of the community to ensure that the need for change is understood by the community and any change works in favour of the community with full recognition of the human and social problems associated with change and the need for full compensation for those disadvantaged.

Labor will ensure that its fiscal, monetary and industry policies take full account of these objectives.

B Labour Market Policies

The development of a comprehensive integrated labour market strategy is fundamental to the attainment of full employment. Accordingly a Labor Government will—

- 1 Ensure that sufficient resources are made available to assess and anticipate changes in the labour market, to acquire detailed information on a continuing basis, and to make extensive use of labour market planning to develop and evaluate manpower programmes.
- 2 Implement measures to develop job creation programmes in the public and private sectors of the economy through the use of its own expenditure, grants to the States and through local government bodies and other non-profit organisations. This finance will enable the funding of worthwhile projects to

provide employment opportunities across a broad range of employment categories and with attention to the particular needs of disadvantaged groups.

- 3 Create a bank of nationally advantageous projects in both Federal and State Government areas with emphasis on their employment potential to counterbalance cyclical movement in the economy.
- 4 Provide special incentives to employers in the private sector for the employment of persons with special physical, social and economic disadvantages with appropriate safeguards to ensure such incentives are used for new job creation.
- 5 Investigate and implement measures designed to give greater flexibility to the working life of the Australian community consistent with the industrial and social standards evolved in that community and the feasibility of special measures such as investment funding, stockpiling assistance and advance orders for job maintenance purposes in line with the best practice in Australia and overseas.

C Training Programmes

Apprenticeship

The training of sufficient apprentices is a matter of exceptional importance and the failure to do so in the past has led to a shortage of skilled tradesmen despite high unemployment. Employers of skilled labour have an obligation to employ apprentices, but they are entitled to a subsidy for those periods in which apprentices are being trained off-the-job.

A Labor Government will—

- 1 Institute a full-scale inquiry into apprenticeship training to consider generally what steps should be taken to ensure that skilled workers are trained in the required numbers for each trade and industry, and in particular to consider—
 - a the feasibility and desirability of—
 - i implementing a refundable levy scheme on employers of skilled labour as a means of compelling them to train their quota of apprentices; and
 - ii developing a pool system of apprenticeship training whereby apprentices are indentured to the industry and receive training with various employers;
 - b the extent to which apprenticeship training should be supplemented or replaced by training schemes based in educational and training establishments;
 - c the degree to which pre-apprenticeship courses could be used to improve the quality and shorten the period of apprenticeship training;
 - d what special measures are needed to assist—
 - i young people from country areas to participate in trade training and to receive the same quality of train-

- ing as city based apprentices, in a manner not detrimental to youth employment; and
 - ii young females to participate in trade training in all areas of industry; and
 - e the desirability of providing on-site psychological assistance especially geared to the problems of young workers.
- 2 With the agreement of the trade unions concerned, encourage the development of adult apprenticeship (both male and female) in the belief that those who were denied the opportunity of an apprenticeship when young, should not forever be denied the opportunity to become skilled workers.

Retraining

- 3 Place increased emphasis on retraining programmes with the objective of reaching the OECD recommended retraining level of 1% of the workforce in each year, such programmes being essential to enable people to work to their fullest capacity, to enable redundant workers to obtain alternative employment, to enable women to re-enter the workforce, and to alleviate shortages of skilled workers.

Vocational Training

- 4 Believing that all young people should be assisted to obtain work skills on cessation of formal schooling, develop as a high priority a system of comprehensive vocational training for all young school leavers who do not take up formal training courses or apprenticeships, as recommended by the OECD Committee of Investigation into Educational Policy in Australia, 1976. The problems that many young people experience in undertaking the transition from school to the workplace will, through this scheme, be overcome.

Basic Training

- 5 Ensure that adequate facilities are provided for members of the workforce whose standards of literacy and/or numeracy are insufficient to enable them to obtain remunerative employment, and extend the training concept to encompass the teaching of English to migrants on-the-job or at training centres.

D Employment Assistance Programmes

- 1 Labor will ensure the development of an efficient, highly-trained and respected national employment service under direct Ministerial control. The Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) will be expanded and improved to enable it to play a dynamic and effective part in the development of labour market policies as well as a flexible and sympathetic job placement service. Facilities for vocational guidance and counselling will be expanded and improved, and an inte-

grated programme introduced to facilitate the transition from education to the working life.

- 2 A Labor Government will take a humane and compassionate approach to the social and economic needs of those denied the opportunity to work, in line with the recommendations of the Myer Report. The CES will be relieved of the responsibility of policing social security guidelines, as recommended in the Norgard Report, to allow it to perform its functions free from its present demoralising image.

10 Environment

A Principles and Goals

Labor believes that—

- 1 the ability of humans to alter their environment has reached the stage where whole ecosystems have been destroyed and others threatened and where human lives and well being are endangered by a variety of environmental changes.
- 2 Australia does not have to choose between environment and development. They are two sides of the one coin, one must be planned in the light of the other. Development is the utilisation of human and natural resources to advance the happiness and welfare of people. Environment is the total stock of natural and social resources available to humans and other species. Both should be planned together and not as separate entities. Labor's goals are for sustained environmentally sound humane development, planned within the constraints of, and in harmony with the natural environment.
- 3 The Australian Government should lead in creating environmental policies and programmes in co-operation with state and local government, involving communities in decisions affecting their environment. Environmental objectives should not be compromised as a consequence of competition between states and regions for development.
- 4 The restoration of full employment and environmental protection are compatible, rather than conflicting, objectives.
- 5 All Australians have a right to a healthy and diverse environment and accordingly environmental policies should reinforce Labor's economic and social reforms and commitment to democratic socialism. Regressive environmental policies will be rejected.
- 6 The costs of environmental planning and management and impact assessment should be normal internal costs of production and development.
- 7 Information and research and investigation programmes are vital components of environmental planning. Government secrecy and suppression of information work against good environmental management and public control of the development process.
- 8 An active and independent voluntary environmental and conservation movement is essential for the achievement and implementation of effective environmental policies.
- 9 Many environmental problems will be minimised or avoided by better assessment and management of new technology and of its transfer.
- 10 The National Government, in conjunction with the States, should develop and promote a national approach to the

management and use of land. This should include urgent programmes to—

- a arrest and reverse desertification;
- b conserve diminishing wetlands and rainforests; and
- c co-ordinate and control the multiple use of forests, coast-lines and water resources.

- 11 A significant number of Australian flora and fauna species are now endangered and this requires urgent and more effective measures to maintain and increase their populations.
- 12 The quality of the work environment of Australians has been neglected to the point that many working people are exposed to hazardous environmental contaminants with little or no regulation or monitoring. The Australian Government should correct this situation and strengthen the ability of working people to press for a safer and cleaner work environment.
- 13 The Australian environment is being subjected to a rapidly growing number and quantity of environmental contaminants, including a wide range of synthetic substances whose biological effects have not been adequately assessed. This situation threatens the health of present and future generations of Australians and is a cause of the continued decline in the quality of our water resources and the air of our cities. It should be a major priority of the Australian Government to reverse this trend.
- 14 Many non-renewable resources are wasted through inefficient industrial processes, unnecessary production of throwaway goods and containers, and planned obsolescence in manufacturing. The Australian Government should seek the co-operation of the States to achieve regulation of these wasteful practices and the development and adoption of new techniques for waste management, including recycling and re-use of waste materials.

B Implementation

A Labor Government will—

- 1 Establish a department responsible for environmental matters to—
 - a administer and co-ordinate all legislation relating to conservation and the environment;
 - b integrate its environmental policies and programmes with its economic, social rural and urban and regional planning policies and programmes; and
 - c fund and co-ordinate research, development, and demonstration projects related to the environment.
- 2 Review and amend the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974-75 to ensure that—
 - a the environmental effects of activities involving the powers of The Australian Government are assessed and measures

- for environmental management are recommended, where possible in terms of government strategies; and
- b public participation in environmental assessment is facilitated and all reports and recommendations made public.
- 3 Enact legislation to appoint an Environmental Advocate who will—
 - a advocate environmental management objectives and programmes at relevant public hearings, and to the general public;
 - b receive and respond to public complaints on environmental matters; and
 - c report to the Parliament annually on the state of the Australian environment.
 - 4 Enact legislation which will enable the Australian Government in co-operation with the States, industry and trade unions to regulate the introduction, use and disposal of environmental contaminants. The legislation will allow for—
 - a the setting of standards for environmental contaminants in humans and the environment;
 - b evaluation of the likely impact of potentially hazardous substances before their introduction and the monitoring of their impact including antenatal effects; and
 - c the provision of full public information on environmental contamination.
 - 5 Review and upgrade financial and legal assistance to environment centres, other voluntary environmental organisations and trade unions.
 - 6 Enact further legislation to provide grants to the States for nature conservation, land use management and other environmental management programmes.
 - 7 In co-operation with the relevant States, work to extend the powers of the River Murray Commission to include consideration of water quality.
 - 8 Investigate the effects of taxation, excise duties, incentives and government purchasing policies on the environment and implement appropriate changes to achieve better environmental management.
 - 9 Stop all programmes designed to replace healthy native hardwood forests with softwood plantations, and direct financial resources towards the development of softwood in areas where sufficient land which is already cleared of native forests is available. For instance, the Commonwealth-State Marginal Farmlands Softwoods Agreement would be negotiated to achieve these aims.
 - 10 As part of the World Conservation Strategy developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, develop and implement a national conservation strategy in conjunction with the States to include—

- a programmes for the dedication and management of national parks and wildlife reserves;
 - b programmes to conserve fauna, flora, landscape and genetic resources, in conjunction with other land use outside reserves; and
 - c regulation of interstate and international trade in endangered and protected species and their products;
- 11 Pending the advent to power by a Federal Labor Government closer links be forged between FPLP spokesman on Wildlife Conservation issues, together with FPLP members on joint parliamentary committees monitoring Federal Government administration of such policies and State Labor Ministers responsible for Wildlife Conservation. Ensure when the latter attend bi-annual conferences of State Ministers responsible for Wildlife Conservation they avoid decision postures counter to national policy.
- 12 Establish jointly with the States—
- a Environmental Survey of Australia, as a decentralised but integrated survey of the Australian environment, on a continuous basis to be used for planning and assessment purposes; and
 - b Commonwealth/State bureaus of air quality to—
 - i establish uniform standards for the measurement of pollutants and the recording of data; and
 - ii establish air quality standards for all Australian major cities.
- 13 Together with State and interested local governments, establish a priority programme to manage the Australian coastline for its multiple uses and to provide adequate funding for the purchase into public ownership and restoration of valuable alienated coastline.
- 14 Take action to conserve all species of marine mammals, and all other marine resources throughout the Australian economic zone.
- In particular, seek to—
- a achieve an international ban on whaling;
 - b prohibit whaling in the economic zones surrounding Australia and Australian territories;
 - c prohibit the import of whale products or goods containing whale products; and
 - d develop and promote marine resource management policies which encourage a recovery of whale populations.
- 15 Promote further development of Environment Education and Information Programmes.

- 16 Work with and assist other countries, particularly those in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia in the Pacific (ESCAP) region to ensure effective and co-ordinated approaches to national and regional problems, to help other countries manage their environments more effectively and to prevent the transfer of environmental problems to them because of actions of Australians.

11 Foreign Affairs

A Introduction

The Australian Labor Party believes, as a democratic socialist and internationalist Party, that every nation should share in the skills of mankind and resources of the world according to its needs, and should contribute to those skills and resources according to its capacity.

Labor recognises that international conflict restricts the development of mankind, creates human suffering and material destruction — in a nuclear world this could mean a universal catastrophe — and accordingly is dedicated to work to promote international harmony and mutual trust between States.

B General Principles

Accordingly Labor will—

- 1 Seek to ensure respect for human rights in accordance with the general principles espoused by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as fundamental to good order within and between nations.
- 2 Give continuing support to the UN and its agencies and to the UN Charter, and make every effort to secure the UN as an effective instrument for justice and peace and political, social and economic advancement.
- 3 Expand regional arrangements for political, cultural and economic co-operation.
- 4 Work for a just and open world economic order based on full participation by all countries in the management and benefits of world trade and exchange.
- 5 Not commit Australian forces overseas except subject to clear and public international agreements.
- 6 Co-operate with the people of the United States and New Zealand within the context of the Australia New Zealand United States (ANZUS) Treaty.
- 7 Foster the Commonwealth of Nations as an instrument for peace and understanding for political, social and economic advancement.
- 8 Maintain all Australian treaties which respect the freedom and security of the peoples in the treaty areas and which allow those peoples to determine their own forms of government without external interference.
- 9 Develop friendly relations with other nations based on respect for their territorial integrity and political independence and for the principle of equal rights and self determination of peoples.

- 10 Refrain from any unnecessary action which would heighten tension or make more difficult the resolving of differences between States.
- 11 Recognise that problems exist between States with different economic and social systems and not allow those differences to form the basis of our relations with other States.
- 12 Recognise, given the legitimate differing interests that exist between States, the fundamental urge of all peoples to live in peace and ensure that this principle is reflected in Australia's approach to international relations and arms control.
- 13 Assign high priority to its relationship with other democratic socialist parties in the Socialist International (SI). Labor will seek through the SI common democratic socialist objectives on major international issues.
- 14 Oppose acts of terror as an unacceptable method of securing political and/or military objectives.

C International Economic Relations

- 1 Recognising that the existing economic structures discriminate against developing nations, Labor supports practical international co-operative arrangements aimed towards the construction of a New International Economic Order and support in principle the UN Charter on the Economic Rights and Duties of States.
- 2 Labor considers that a comprehensive set of rules is needed to ensure that developing countries obtain full benefit from the growth of economic opportunities, including expanding technological capacities and of the exploitation of the sea and sea bed.
- 3 Labor will see that the Australian economy benefits from a more rational and positive approach to our trade with the Asian and Pacific region.
- 4 Labor supports the development of a code of conduct for Australian investors in developing countries.
- 5 Labor seeks to establish an international code regulating corporations and securities whose operations extend beyond the boundaries of a single state.
- 6 Whilst not affecting Australia's current claims to certain areas of the Antarctica a Labor Government would be prepared to enter into discussions with other interested nations to investigate the desirability and practicability of international control of Antarctica.

D Development Assistance

Labor believes that foreign aid should be recognised by all Governments as an international responsibility and allocated on the basis of need. Foreign aid is not to be used as a means of securing any political, military or commercial

advantage, but according to the wishes of the people of the recipient nations.

Labor recognises that in their dealings with developed countries, third world states are normally disadvantaged and that most foreign aid programmes do little to redress this situation. Labor believes that the effectiveness of foreign aid depends on a commitment to a just and equitable international society. Accordingly, Labor will—

- 1 Achieve the UN target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance.
- 2 a increase the proportion of its development assistance which is directed to multi-lateral agencies; and
b ensure that overseas development assistance is provided on a continuous, predictable and assured basis, and that it will be distributed rationally and equitably.
- 3 Establish a Development Assistance Fund to keep aid expenditure flexible and establish machinery—
a for creative and imaginative thinking on foreign aid; and
b for encouraging and co-operating with private aid community assistance programmes.
- 4 Recognise the need to promote awareness in the Australian community of the grave and growing problems of world poverty and their threat to the future of humanity.
- 5 Support programmes of development education through Government and non-Government organisations which are consistent with its principles on foreign aid.
- 6 Give high priority to development assistance in the countries of Australia's immediate region, in particular those of the South Pacific and South East Asia to strengthen the fabric of peace and freedom and to uphold the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law and to promote economic well-being and development.
- 7 Ensure that Australia's trade investment and development assistance policies in these high priority regions are harmonious.

E Disarmament and Arms Control

Labor will—

- 1 Adopt the view that generally the presence of foreign forces in countries other than their own heightens international tension and is conducive to armed conflict. Accordingly, it will seek their removal by all available peaceful means including international disarmament agreements.
- 2 Oppose the development, proliferation, possession and use of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and exotic weapons. Accordingly Labor will oppose a nuclear component for Australia's Armed Forces.

- 3 Work to modernise and apply international conventions to secure universal prohibition of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological warfare.
- 4 Support arms limitation arrangements in the Indian Ocean, such as the zone of peace proposal.
- 5 Work to secure agreements among arms manufacturing nations to impose qualitative and quantitative constraints on arms transfer to areas of tension.
- 6 Support a nuclear free zone proposal in the Southern Pacific area.

F Bases and Facilities

Labor will—

- 1 Ensure that the presence in Australia of foreign owned, controlled or operated bases and facilities does not involve a derogation from Australian sovereignty.
- 2 Not oppose the use of Australian bases and facilities by Allies in war-time, or in periods of international tension involving a threat to Australia, or in so far as they are involved with verification of treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms control, such as SALT II; provided Australian authority and sovereignty are unimpaired, and provided that Australia is not involved in hostilities without Australia's consent.
- 3 Will make known to the Australian public the general purpose and functions of the bases and any change to these.
- 4 Seek to ensure that the tenure of these bases and facilities by other powers not be of such a character as to exclude properly accredited access by authorised Australians charged with the duty of evaluating Australian defence policy, whether members of the Australian Parliament, defence departments or armed services.

G Space Control

Labor—

- 1 Endorses the freedom of exploration access and use of outer space by all states in accordance with international law including the UN Charter, for the benefit of mankind.
- 2 Supports the use of space and all celestial bodies for peaceful purposes exclusively. It opposes any military bases, installations, fortifications or weapons in outer space. It also opposes the conduct of military manoeuvres in outer space.
- 3 Declares that outer space is not subject to national appropriation or to claims of sovereignty because of use, occupation or any other grounds.
- 4 Supports the establishment of an International Space Control Authority.

H Discrimination

Labor opposes any form of segregation or discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, sex, creed or politics and will insist on ending every form of such discrimination within Australia and in Australian administered territories. Labor supports action, including sanctions, through the UN, to end such segregation and discrimination.

I National Security Decision-Making

Labor recognises that the political decision-making apparatus of the Australian Government is inadequate, now that the national and international security is concerned with more than diplomacy and military defence and involves departments and agencies other than Foreign Affairs and Defence. Accordingly Labor will—

- 1 Establish a National and International Security Committee of Cabinet to co-ordinate policy and take collective decisions. This Committee will comprise the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, the Minister for Defence and other Ministers up to a total of six, all of whom will have access to the most sensitive of classified material. The Committee will report its decisions to Cabinet.
- 2 Also set up an Office of National and International Security to act as a secretariat to the Cabinet Committee, co-ordinate proposals and provide inter-departmental linkages.
- 3 Ensure that the Australian Government exercises authority over intelligence and security agencies. Labor will give specific authority to the National and International Security Committee of Cabinet to set overall intelligence and security policy and to oversee the work of the agencies.
- 4 Labor will introduce a system of Parliamentary audit on intelligence and security.

Resolutions

1979 National Conference

1 INDO CHINA

This Conference believes that the present conflict between China and Vietnam is a severe danger to world peace as it could lead to world wide conflagration.

This Conference—

- a deplores the Australian Government's action of withdrawing its economic aid programme to Vietnam;
- b deplores the US Government's refusal to recognise to meet its reparations obligations to Vietnam and in particular its refusal to provide the \$3.8 billion of aid to Vietnam which it agreed to when it signed the Paris accords of 1973;
- c calls for the demilitarisation of the Vietnam-China border;
- d supports the established agreement between Vietnam and the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which would enable the orderly departure of Vietnamese citizens;
- e calls for the restoration and expansion of economic aid to Vietnam in order that its economy might be quickly reconstructed in a manner that enables it to improve the standard of living of its population and thereby to check the large scale emigration; and
- f seek normalisation of the situation in Kampuchea, recognising the difficulties and national destruction caused by war and the recent tragic repression of the Cambodian people and recognise the pressing need for the development of a government properly representative of national aspirations.

2 APARTHEID

Labor condemns the practice of apartheid in South Africa. A Labor Government will direct its unremitting efforts through international agencies like the UN to bring about, through peaceful means, the elimination of racial discrimination in South Africa. Australia should encourage international sporting, financial, diplomatic and cultural organisations of which it is a member to persuade the South African Government to abandon its policies on apartheid. A Labor Government will use all aspects of Australia's existing relationship with South Africa to press for an end to the apartheid system.

3 EAST TIMOR

The ALP condemns, in the strongest terms, the Australian Government's recognition of Indonesia's annexation of East

Timor and undertakes, on becoming the Government of Australia, to reverse the decision. Government action will entail—

a setting the example for a UN embargo on military aid to Indonesia; and

b actively press for the entry into East Timor of a UN fact-finding mission whose function shall include the monitoring of contraventions of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

4 IRIAN JAYA

The Australian Labor Party calls for the dispatch of a UN fact-finding mission to Irian Jaya to examine the question of violation of human rights by the Indonesian Government or Indonesian military forces in that region, and to report to the United Nations General Assembly as to the desires of the peoples of Irian Jaya to seek national self-determination.

Conference further calls on the Australian Government to grant the rights of political asylum of members of the Free Papua Movement who seek such asylum under the auspices of UN supervision.

5 MIDDLE EAST

Conference welcomes the recently signed peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. It considers this treaty an important step in the search for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace.

The attainment of such peace in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 remains an urgent necessity.

Labor believes that both Israel and the Palestinians are entitled to independent states and national homes of their own.

There can be no lasting peace until the Arab States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation respect and recognise Israel's sovereignty and right to exist. Equally, there can be no lasting peace until Israeli forces have been withdrawn from occupied territories to secure and recognised boundaries and a just settlement of the claims of the Palestinian people is achieved. A Labor Government will contribute to such a settlement.

6 INDIAN OCEAN

Labor affirms its support for an Indian Ocean zone of peace, free of foreign bases. The Australian Government should support the concept of an international conference aimed at advancing this goal.

At such a conference, Australia should support moves to outlaw use of the peace zone by warships and military aircraft for any threat, or use of force, against any littoral or hinterland state of the Indian Ocean.

Further, as an immediate goal, Australia should urge the USA and the USSR to refrain from establishing new bases or expanding their navies in the Ocean. We should also urge negotiation between these two powers, and other powers with a naval presence, aimed at reducing forces to the lowest possible level.

7 POLITICAL PRISONERS

A future Labor Government will sponsor a General Assembly resolution in the UN that urges all Governments to declare an unconditional amnesty by releasing all their political prisoners. Political prisoners should be defined as people deprived of their liberty because they have sought peaceful expression of beliefs and opinions at variance with those held by their Governments or have sought to provide legal or other forms of non-violent assistance to such persons.

8 NEUTRON BOMB

This Conference supports President Carter's decision to establish a moratorium on the production and deployment of the neutron bomb.

9 POLITICAL ASYLUM

That the ALP recognises the indisputable right of any person to seek political asylum if he/she is being faced with a definite possibility of the persecution referred to in Article 2 of the United Nations Conference on Territorial Asylum.

10 DIPLOMATIC ASYLUM

Conference again condemns the Fraser Government for its failure to pursue the initiatives taken by the Labor Government in 1974 and 1975 at the United Nations General Assembly in pursuit of international agreement on the principles and practice of diplomatic asylum.

11 ZIMBABWE

This Conference believes that the only means of securing a peaceful solution to the problems of Zimbabwe is by involving all parties in the settlement process. This Conference further believes that free and democratic elections held on the basis of a constitution which guarantees to the people of Zimbabwe genuine majority rule.

12 OMEGA

Conference notes the following findings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence Report on the Omega Navigational Installation—

a on the question of whether an Omega installation would be a military base—

'If an Omega Station is constructed in Australia, it will not be constructed, controlled, operated or staffed by military

personnel. In addition, all operating personnel will be appointed by and responsible to the Australian Government, and all directions will stem from the Australian Government (except insofar as co-ordination of signals will be supervised by a multi-national directorate, on which Australia will be represented). Accordingly, Conference rejects the suggestions that an Omega station will be a military base, that it will be influenced or controlled by the United States Government, that it is in any way part of a United States military system.'

There is no similarity in this regard between an Omega installation and purely military bases such as North-West Cape. As the Dissenting Report of the Joint Committee commented—

'It is unfortunate that many of the opponents of Omega have over-stated their case, which has only served to weaken any genuine argument against it. To portray Omega as being in the same category as the United States communication base at North-West Cape is not correct.'

b on the question of Australian ownership and control—

'Each of the Omega Stations now operating is controlled by an agency of the host nation . . . An Omega transmitter cannot be used to transmit messages without the knowledge of the operators of that transmitter, and if an Australian transmitter is controlled by the Australian Government there can be no possibility that the transmitter will be used by any nation as a communication base without the agreement of the Australian Government.'

c conference notes that the Australian Government would be in a position to close down transmissions from the installation in the event of hostilities or in any other circumstances;

d conference notes that the Omega Navigational System will benefit commercial sea and air transport with resulting cost savings to the community.

e conference recommends that an effective monitoring and control system should be maintained to ensure consistent signal format, that any alteration in signal format must not occur except with the authority of the Australian Government, and that the transmitter must be completely under Australian civilian control;

f it is the Conference's conclusion that the construction of an Omega Navigational Installation in Australia consistent with these recommendations fulfils the requirements of the ALP Platform and the Conference Resolution.

13 SALT II

Conference welcomes the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty Protocol and Declaration of Principles (signed by President

Carter and President Brezhnev on 18 June) as significant measures designed to control the thermo-nuclear arms race between the US and the USSR.

Conference calls on the two super powers to ratify the Treaty without delay so that these measures can enter into force. Conference urges the Governments of the US and the USSR in SALT III to negotiate actual reduction in their strategic arms in a process of disarmament.

14 MARITIME COMMAND

Conference calls on the Australian Government to order immediately the establishment of a Maritime Command of the Australian Defence Force to undertake surveillance of the Australian coast and its territorial seas. This command should be headquartered in northern Australia and involve an integrated force for surveillance and interception at sea, in the air and on land. Procedures should be established to ensure co-operation between the Command and civil authorities.

15 CYPRUS

The Conference commends the efforts of the Secretary General of the UN in securing agreement to intercommunal talks in Cyprus. The Conference regrets that these talks have not yet made progress and urges the leaders of both communities to continue the talks, to achieve a lasting settlement with full respect for the human rights of both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

Conference deplores the continued presence of foreign armed forces and foreign military personnel on the territory of the Republic of Cyprus and the fact that part of its territory is still occupied by foreign forces.

Accordingly, conference—

- a calls for the respect of the human rights of all Cypriots and the instituting of urgent measures for the voluntary return of refugees to their homes in safety.
- b calls on Australian Government to use its influences to have the general Assembly Resolution No. 33/15 of 9/11/78 fully implemented.

16 LEBANON

The Conference expresses regret and concern at the continuation of hostilities in the Lebanon. It urges all the parties in the Lebanon and in neighbouring countries to exercise restraint and avoid further conflict.

17 REFUGEES

The Conference notes—

- a the growing problem of refugees in the South East Asian region;

- b the efforts of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Hong Kong in accommodating refugees at considerable strain to the people of those countries;
- c the reluctance of Vietnam to stop people from leaving Vietnam if they chose to try to do so;
- d the grossly inadequate financial support offered to countries of first asylum by the rich nations of the world;
- e the totally inadequate numbers of refugees being taken for permanent settlement from the countries if first asylum by the rich developed nations of the world; and
- f that as part of the Paris peace agreement ending the Vietnam war, the US acknowledged its responsibility and promised \$4.5 billion reconstruction aid to Vietnam of which none has yet been forthcoming.

This Conference of the ALP supports the decision of the ALP Ministers and Shadow Ministers for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs of 1st December, 1978, urging that the Australian Government should initiate discussion between the rich developed nations of the world and the Government of Vietnam to implement a programme of massive aid to Vietnam to help that country overcome its crippling economic problems, thus easing the pressures on people of that country arising from its economic difficulties which prompt so many to seek to leave as refugees, and that as an indication of its sincerity the Australian Government should immediately re-institute its aid programme to Vietnam.

18 LATIN AMERICA

That in keeping with the resolution of the 14th Post-War Socialist International Congress on Latin America the Party calls for the withdrawal of external support for non-democratic Latin American regimes. In particular Labor opposes the brutal Somoza regime in Nicaragua and expresses the view that the ending of the dynasty will assist the democratisation of the whole of Central America. Labor will assist fraternal organisations working to implement democratic principles in the region.

19 SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

In view of the importance of the South Pacific region to Australia, Labor will take every possible initiative towards greater co-operation with countries of the region through—a strongly supporting moves towards political self-determi-

nation for the remaining colonies of New Caledonia, New Hebrides, American Samoa, French Polynesia, the Wallis and Futuna Islands and Tokelan Island;

- b direct development assistance towards achieving local control of their own resources;
- c monitor and regulate within an acceptable code of behaviour the activities of Australian companies and traders operating in the region; and
- d provide an increased commitment to the South Pacific Forum in order to strengthen regionalism.

12 Health

A Introduction

Health is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, but implies successful adaptation to one's total environment, physical, technological, psychological, and social. It is a matter for the individual, but a state of health can be promoted or threatened by environmental, educational, welfare, urban and other factors as well as by government policies.

Health care is as dependent on a clean environment and good working conditions as it is on medical and hospital services. Labor's policies on health must not only cover medical and hospital services, but also confront the major health problems of Australia, such as Aboriginal ill-health, cardiovascular disease, road trauma, the common cancers, alcoholism and other drug dependency, and psychological maladaptation to the social environment.

B Aims

The aims of a Labor Government must be to—

- 1 Promote a physical and social environment free of hazards to physical and mental health and encourage the community to participate in restoration and maintenance of the health of its members.
- 2 Ensure access to basic health services for all regardless of income.
- 3 Assist those with a disability to adapt as well as possible to their circumstances and, as far as practicable, resume their place in society.

C Implementation of Policy

In a Federal system these aims can only be achieved by co-operative action of Federal and State Labor Governments. A Federal Labor Government will—

- 1 Introduce a universal Health Scheme to be financed by an income related contribution enabling the public to choose between health care provided by health professionals remunerated on a fee for service, salaried, sessional fee, capitation fee or capitation fee plus bonus basis.

D Community Health and Environmental Protection

Research

- 1 Promote continuing research and surveys into the health needs and services of the community to—

- a determine the nature and incidence of disease and improve its prevention and treatment in the community;
- b identify health hazards in the diet and in the domestic, occupational, and community environment; and
- c evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility and cost of health care.

Health Education

- 2 Promote education programmes on lifestyle factors affecting health particularly with regard to—
 - a alcohol, tobacco and other drugs;
 - b diet;
 - c human sexuality, physical and psychological;
 - d leisure; and
 - e social, cultural and employment influences on mental health.

Environmental Health

- 3 In co-operation with State and Local Government, promote—
 - a research into and development of, a uniform national code of practice in industry, agriculture and other occupations to protect the air, soil, water and food from contamination; and
 - b control of exhaust emissions of motor vehicles to the extent necessary to eliminate health risks.

Smoking

- 4 a take further action to prevent the advertising and promotion of smoking;
- b support tested and effective programmes for the reduction of smoking; and
- c differentiate, where possible, in applying tobacco excise in favour of low tar cigarettes.

Heart Disease

- 5 a give a high priority in the allocation of research funds to research into the causes and prevention of coronary-artery disease; and
- b give financial and other support to the National Heart Foundation on its programmes to reduce the exposure of individuals to risk factors such as smoking and obesity.

Physical Fitness

- 6 Undertake planning and research to develop and implement programmes for sports and physical fitness, including the training and engagement of physical education instructors.

Road Trauma

- 7 Promote and encourage—
 - a research into risk factors in vehicle and road design and

- physiological and psychological and disease states predisposing to road accidents;
- b the formulation of a code of road and vehicle safety design and monitoring; and
- c research into finding effective methods of discouraging driving after drinking alcohol.

Occupational Health

- 8 a establish a joint Federal-State authority of Occupational Health and safety to establish, promote and enforce a uniform code of practice in matters of occupational health and safety;
- b monitor and assess health and safety hazards in the workplace;
- c establish a national register of toxic chemical substances manufactured in and used by industry;
- d promote the elimination of hazardous substances and processes from industry, and when this is not possible, to ensure that workers are protected from them;
- e develop education and training programmes for personnel engaged in occupational health and safety;
- f confer statutory powers upon health and safety stewards and factory committees to protect workers against health hazards in the workplace. Such stewards and committees to be elected by employees;
- g confer statutory powers upon trade union officials to inspect industrial premises and obtain relevant information from employers where issues of health and safety of their members are in question;
- h promote education of employers to ensure that industrial plant, processes and conditions are based on the application of ergonomic principles to ensure the comfort, safety and mental health of workers; and
- i promote the education of workers in physical fitness and in correct work-methods.

Radioactive Substances

- 9 a adopt measures to protect the community from the hazards of radioactive substances whether from the indiscriminate or unsafe use of ionizing radiation, or radioactive waste from nuclear extractive or power generation industries; and
- b formulate national codes of safety practices for use of ionizing radiation in both medical and industrial activities.

Pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceutical Benefits

- 10 Control the advertising of drugs to provide balanced factual information by or with the approval of health authorities.
- 11 Request the medical professions to draw up codes for the prescription and use of drugs and establish drug use audit

- committees to review the prescribing practices of physicians in the light of these codes.
- 12 Establish a pharmaceutical information centre to provide to physicians and pharmacists advice on drug incompatibilities, side-effects, indications and contra-indications.
 - 13 Promote the manufacture, bulk purchase and wholesale distribution of pharmaceutical products through the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL) in competition with private manufacturers.
 - 14 Require the dispensing of prescriptions for essential drugs to be free of direct charge to the patients.
 - 15 Prohibit the sale of compound analgesics except by pharmacists.
 - 16 Encourage community participation at all levels of the health service, in planning, administration and in the execution of health-promoting activities.
 - 17 Aim to extend community health programmes to cover all residents of Australia.

Consumer Health Councils

- 18 Establish regional Consumer Health councils with Government, professional and consumer representation and with the functions to—
 - a review and recommend developments in area community health programmes and health care;
 - b monitor the quality of health care;
 - c provide an access point for complaints about the health service;
 - d protect the rights of patients regarding information about their illnesses, treatment and drug usage.
 - e employ staff to provide people with advice and assistance in using health services.

E Medical Services Domiciliary, Clinical and Hospital

- 1 While emphasising the maintenance of good health and prevention of illness—
 - a
 - i develop community Health Centres providing comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic medical and dental services, encompassing domiciliary care and integrated with a regional and base/teaching hospital complex;
 - ii in establishing these Centres, place high priority on areas lacking medical service adequate for local needs;
 - iii provide for the Centres to be staffed by multi-disciplinary teams of salaried health personnel; and
 - iv provide payments to Community Health Centres for these services;
 - b encourage the establishment of alternative methods of funding health care delivery such as health maintenance organi-

- sations and primary medical care provided by doctors willing to join a salaried medical service;
- c provide assistance to the States to conduct a comprehensive health advisory service in schools;
 - d extend the School Dental Health scheme to all primary school children and subsequently, to all pre-school and secondary school children;
 - e arrange for accreditation of medical service units including community Health Centres, hospitals, nursing homes and pathology services, before these qualify for Government support whether by way of general revenue, specific grants or Medibank payments for patient, medical and hospital services;
 - f establish regionalised public hospital groups, providing a full range of therapeutic services and teaching facilities in each region integrated with Community Health Centres, to ensure that sufficient acute, convalescent, and chronic beds are available where they can best cater for patient needs; and
 - g whilst providing high security accommodation for dangerous psychiatric patients, integrate psychiatric hospitals into the regional hospital groups which will result in the abolition of separate institutions and financial arrangements for psychiatric illness.

F Long Term Health Care

Recognising that there are special problems in the long term health care of the chronically ill including chronic psychiatric patients, persons incapacitated by injury, retarded, spastic or chronically ill children, and elderly people in need of geriatric care, Labor will—

Rehabilitation

- 1 a regard rehabilitation as an integral part of health care and ensure it is freely available for those in need;
- b ensure that a health care team with appropriate specialists as necessary for any particular injured person, determines the period of rehabilitation and when recovery is complete, or acceptable adaption to the disability has been achieved; and
- c seek the co-operation of industry in the retraining and re-entry of the rehabilitated into the workforce.

Geriatric Care

- 2 a ensure that geriatric care is conducted from community health centres; and
- b ensure that geriatric patients are kept as active as possible within their community for as long as possible, supported by domiciliary care services provided from health centres and other community organisations.

G Patients' Rights

- 1 Seek the co-operation of all levels of government to amend, where necessary, laws so as to provide for—
 - a the protection of individuals against involuntary incarceration or other loss of civil rights under mental health law, except where it can be demonstrated that the freedom of the individual is a substantial threat to the safety of the community or the welfare of the patients;
 - b continued committal to a psychiatric institution to be subject to regular review before a panel of individuals not exclusively of the medical or allied professions, and patients or their representatives to have mandatory access to legal representation and further redress to judicial appeal at least equivalent to the rights given in relation to criminal appeals;
 - c medical records of a patient to be accessible to the patient;
 - d medical records not to be disclosed to any other person outside the health care team except with the consent of the patient or at the direction of a court, or for authorised medical record auditing, peer review or research purposes; and
 - e privacy and rights of patients to be respected at all times.

H Liaison with WHO and with Other Countries

- 1 Strengthen ties with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and, through it co-operative with other countries, particularly those in South-East Asia, to make arrangements for the control and elimination of infectious diseases.

13 Immigration and Community Relations

A Introduction

Australia has consciously pursued policies of attracting migrants as settlers. Therefore, it is our responsibility to assist them in establishing themselves with the same rights, opportunities and responsibilities as all Australians.

Participation of these settlers in Australian society at the level desired by them must be facilitated in every possible way, recognising the important role family reunion plays in this process.

All ethnic groups must be free to retain and express their ethnic identity if they desire to do so, without sacrificing their rights of equal access to the community's resources.

Improved community relations; the relationships of particular ethnic groups, whether English speaking or not, with all sections of the community, must be positively encouraged and any measures taken must be administered with flexibility and an understanding of the diversity of the population.

B Immigration

- 1 A Labor Government will establish a National Population Council, to consider and make recommendations on the relationship between population growth, immigration, the economy, the environment and the quality of life.
The Council will be drawn from groups representing community, demographic, economic, environmental, industrial and social interests.
- 2 Labor supports immigration at a level which is consistent with the national interest and Australia's humanitarian obligations. Within the immigration programme family reunions must have a high priority.
The ALP will establish consultative machinery between the States and the Federal Government to determine the level of immigration intake and of Federal financial support to ensure the States can provide adequate facilities, services and opportunities for all new settlers.
- 3 Family reunion sponsored by Australian residents shall not require maintenance guarantees.
- 4 As negotiated with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the Australian Government after consultation with the States will select without discrimination on grounds of sex, politics, colour, race, creed or place of origin, and accept for permanent settlement, its fair share of the refugees being cared for by countries of first asylum.

- 5 Uninvited refugees seeking asylum in Australia as a country of first asylum should be cared for on behalf of the UN, whilst arrangements are made through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for their final settlement amongst member nations of the UN including Australia.
- 6 Negotiations will be opened with the New Zealand Government to resolve problems of abuse of the present free entry in either direction.
- 7 There will be no discrimination in the immigration policy or any other areas of policy on the grounds of race, nationality, politics, sex or creed.
- 8 There shall be no distinction between Australian citizens, whether born in Australia or overseas, in legal, social or political rights.
- 9 A right of appeal against deportation orders and denials of citizenship to an independent Tribunal with judicial status and jurisdiction will be established. This Tribunal shall be presided over by a judge and composed of members drawn from a cross-section of the community.
- 10 A complete review of deportation procedures will be undertaken.

C Community Relations

Recognising Australia is a multicultural society in which all residents, whatever their ethnic origin or command of English, have equal rights and equal access to services, a Labor Government will—

- 1 Ensure Australia fulfills its obligations arising from the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), which the Labor Government ratified in 1975.
- 2 Provide comprehensive initial settlement services, including full-time English courses, for up to six months if needed, for all newly arrived immigrants.
- 3 Provide adult English courses for non-English speaking persons at the work place during working hours and more flexible courses, with the provision for child care, for those not in the workforce.
- 4 In consultation with management and unions, develop comprehensive strategies to overcome the human problems of a multi-cultural workforce, covering such matters as safety practices, workers' compensation, recognition of overseas qualifications and problems associated with unemployment.
- 5 Extend and improve the programme for teaching English as a second language, as well as providing within school hours for the study of community language and cultures, and for bilingual education programmes. Similarly, at the adult level provide for the maintenance of community languages and cultures.

- 6 Ensure that all Government departments recognise the diversity of the population and improve the access of non-English speaking people to their services and information through bilingual staff and interpreter services.
- 7 Assist ethnic groups to develop their own cultural, educational and welfare projects.
- 8 Encourage the formation of ethnic community councils in all States, composed of persons elected by and from various ethnic groups, to act as advocates for ethnic groups and individuals. Representative councils will receive Federal Government financial support.
- 9 Provide for comprehensive ethnic media programming, which includes community involvement, on public and national services.
- 10 Remove the requirement that an applicant for citizenship demonstrate an adequate knowledge of the English language.

14 Industrial Relations

A Introduction

Labor believes that the promotion of good industrial relations is an essential element in any programme aimed at improving standards and conditions of work. Progressive and enlightened industrial relations policies must be the foundation of a just industrial society where Australian working men and women can enjoy a fair share of national wealth, secure employment and equal opportunity. Labor's industrial relations policies are designed to ensure the right of Australian workers to—

- a an adequate standard of living;
- b a safe and healthy working environment;
- c full and secure employment;
- d equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination on grounds of race, sex and marital status;
- e organise in democratic trade unions and to collectively bargain and to exercise the right to strike in the course of such activities immune from any pains and penalties directed against unions and unionists;
- f exercise power in the decision making process of enterprises in which they are employed through the promotion and development of systems of industrial democracy;
- g be represented in the decision making processes of government through the full participation of their respective trade unions and peak councils in tripartite consultative machinery; and
- h be represented at the international level through the participation of the trade union movement in bodies such as the ILO and Trade Committees.

B Trade Unions

Trade unions have a vital role in the Australian social fabric. Trade unions have been and remain an instrument of social change and progress in Australia and Labor's industrial relations policy aims to maintain and strengthen trade union organisation. Recognising the special benefits and obligations that fall upon trade unions in the Australian industrial relations system a Labor Government will review current industrial and related laws and practices in order to reach the following objectives—

- 1 The facilitation of further amalgamation of industrial organisations.
- 2 The recognition of the rights of unions to regulate their own affairs in a democratic way free from government and judicial interference and at the same time expanding the role of

the Industrial Registrar in advising on matters relating to rules so that unions will have access to information and independent advice which will allow them, where necessary, to improve and up date their rules.

- 3 Exempt unions from provisions of the Trade Practices Act.
- 4 The further securance of participatory democracy in registered organisations.
- 5 The resolution, in consultation with State governments and unions, of problems created for registered organisations affected by difficulties associated with separate registration of organisations at State and Federal levels.
- 6 The recognition of the special role of job representatives and the provision of security in their employment and their freedom from victimisation and the granting of the rights necessary for them to function effectively on behalf of the workers they represent.
- 7 The encouragement of the membership of registered organisations through the provision of preference to unionists in the taking of leave and, where practicable, in the light of legislative prescriptions, in their engagement and promotion and their retention in cases of retrenchments.
- 8 Secure the greater participation of women and migrants in trade unions through, in consultation with the unions, the provision of services such as interpretation and translation facilities and child care amenities.
- 9 Recognise that the legitimate role of the trade unions is not limited to legally defined industrial matters.

C Terms of Employment

Employees Generally

A fundamental element of a just and practical industrial relations system is the attainment of terms of employment for wage and salary earners that are of the highest standard consistent with the maintenance of economic progress, and will strive to ensure that the terms of employment in Australia comply with that standard, and shall include—

- 1 Access to information on all matters of direct interest to union members in an undertaking including matters of manpower, remuneration, control, ownership of enterprises, proposed changes in development production, investment plans, information on costs, pricing and profits.
- 2 Right of access to workers represented by unions including personal access, distribution of information and the convening of meetings of workers.
- 3 Full and unfettered access to all premises, shops and vessels, plants and workers, by their safety representatives and effective powers to safeguard the safety, health and welfare of those who have elected them.

- 4 Provision for full protection against victimisation and discrimination of union members, union officials, union, job and safety representatives before, during and after the term for which they are elected.
- 5 The provision of such facilities in an undertaking to the union, job and safety representatives as may be appropriate in order to enable them to carry out their functions promptly and efficiently.
- 6 The rights of unionists and their committee and their representatives to have adequate time and opportunity during working hours to meet, discuss, analyse, prepare, and promote their ideas and initiatives for negotiations with management.

Wage and Salary Standards

Wage and salary standards must ensure adequate rewards for those exercising skill and responsibility and believes that such rewards are necessary to overcome shortages of skilled persons in Australia, particularly in the trades and related technical fields.

While recognising the need for adequate rewards for skill and responsibility a Labor Government has a prime obligation to ensure that the lower paid receive sufficient remuneration to provide an adequate standard of living and through the wage system and the social security and taxation system ensure the well being of their families, and that educational opportunities of their children are equal to those available to higher income groups.

Consistent with that approach and in consultation with relevant parties, a Labor Government will adopt the following principles—

- 7 Automatic quarterly indexation of wage and salaries in accordance with movements in Consumer Price Index.
- 8 Changes in the length, organisation and pattern of working life provide scope for increases in living standards as well as increased efficiency in industry through changed work practices. Examination of the potential for increased leisure for wage and salary earners or changed life styles based on reduced hours of work and changed work practices should be encouraged at the industry level. In this context regard should be had to the circumstances of the industry, the degree of automation and other relevant factors. Shorter working hours may be one appropriate change among many that harmonise the length and organisation of working time to job requirements and at the same time do not create inequitable standards as compared to other sections of industry. Labor believes that collective bargaining along these lines can yield increases in productivity which are not at the expense of normal national productivity gains and as such, asserts the

right of employees to share in increases in national productivity whether by increased real wages, reductions in national standard working hours, increased annual leave or long-service leave or improved standards of superannuation.

- 9 Recalling the right of wage and salary earners to obtain the highest living standards consistent with the maintenance of economic progress, Labor will support in the Arbitration Commission claims that ensure that minimum wages are set at standards such that no employee, including employees in external territories under Australian jurisdiction, is living in or near poverty, that minimum standards move regularly and consistently in line with community living standards and that the right of workers to periodically obtain increases in wages above basic award rates is maintained.
- 10 Portability of long-service leave, a minimum provision of three months' long-service leave for each seven years of service and long-service leave for casual and part-time employees together with provisions covering pro-rata long-service in cases where an employee has worked for the same employer for three years or more.
- 11 A minimum of four weeks' annual leave on full pay plus an amount equal to one week at the average weekly earnings of all adult male wage and salary earners as disclosed by the Statistician for the September quarter immediately preceding the taking of such leave, and in the case of juniors the extra week's pay shall be on a pro-rata basis.
- 12 Application to employees of contractors and sub-contractors, of wages and conditions no less favourable than the wages and conditions applying to similar classifications of employees specified in the award, determination, or industrial agreements observed at the site or establishment at which such persons are employed.
- 13 The establishment of provisions relating to redundancy, which identify the responsibilities of employers, trade unions and governments and encourage the full assumption of their respective duties in such situations including—
 - a the giving of adequate notice by employers to trade unions and competent federal and state authorities of situations likely to cause redundancy and the provision of machinery for full consultation with trade unions to develop joint strategies to avoid or minimise retrenchment. The length of notice of potential redundancy situations to be longer the greater the potential number of persons affected;
 - b provision that employees rendered redundant will be entitled to payment of pro-rata long-service leave and all accumulated superannuation or pension fund benefits arising from employer and employee contributions except

- where alternate employment is provided, in which case such benefits shall be portable;
- c after full consultation, where the position of any worker is declared redundant and he or she cannot be otherwise suitably employed, he or she to be provided with a minimum of six months notice termination or the equivalent in wages;
 - d provision that employees who, because of age and length of service are not able to be retrained, shall be retained in employment until normal retiring age unless satisfactory arrangements are made for the payment of superannuation benefits and, necessary supplementary assistance, including travelling expenses to be provided by the employer and/or Government for the period until normal retiring age; and
 - e make-up pay by the last employer where retrenched employees in career industries with an appropriate length of service or with long service fail to secure new positions at the rate of pay they would have enjoyed if retained in their first employment.
- 14 All benefits and status of full-time work to apply to permanent part-time work on a pro-rata basis.
 - 15 Pregnancy or childbirth, as such, not to be grounds for dismissal from employment and that a woman has the right to return to her job or a similar one with the same employer within 12 months of childbirth.

Australian Government Employees

Australian Government employment is a form of community resource whose use should be dedicated to advancement of the community interest.

The composition of the Australian Government workforce and the rules and practices which govern it, should reflect the composition and values of the community which it serves, be free of improper discrimination, and be compatible with social accountability.

In recognition of its responsibility as the largest single employer and in addition to actions it may take in the interests of employees generally, a Labor Government will legislate, where practicable, and otherwise give administrative effect to the following policies—

- 16 All sections of the public service to be treated equally, guaranteeing all public servants comparable treatment in wages and conditions, across the public sector and in relation to the private sector, and at all times fully consulting the industrial organisations concerned for their advice and guidance.
- 17 The public service to be staffed on the basis of equity. People should not be penalised for their social origins or disabilities, recognising the disadvantaged positions in the public service of Aborigines, women, migrants and the handicapped. More

sensitive terms of employment will be introduced to assist those groups, and increasing use to be made of more flexible methods to fit in with the family responsibilities of men and women in order not to lose, or to fail to recruit, their particular skills.

- 18 All agencies of the Australian Government will exercise powers and discretions in a manner that does not discriminate on grounds of race, creed, sex, age, marital status, political belief, security record or educational qualifications, except where reasonably and justifiably required for the effective performance of work to be undertaken.
- 19 Employees should have the opportunity to retire from Government service at a relatively early age, if they so choose, without loss of accrued rights and prospects. In this context the Commonwealth Employees Redeployment and Retirement Act 1979 will be repealed and a new act drafted in consultation with employees and their associations and provisions for early retirement worked out.
- 20 For the whole Government workforce, participation by employees in the organisation and development of departmental work to be supported. Experiments with new organisational forms will, in co-operation with the staff associations, continue to be supported. The grievance procedures of the public service shall be revised, simplified, and extended both to safeguard the rights of employees and to restore uniformity of treatment throughout the whole service, and the promotion appeals machinery to be similarly reviewed. Existing consultative machinery such as joint Council and similar bodies in statutory authorities will be reviewed in consultation with industrial organisations concerned to secure the restoration of genuine consultation and discussion.
- 21 Experimentation with, and development of, systems of rewards and opportunities (including training and retraining for male and female employees to overcome occupational and career stagnation or redundancy) will be promoted.
- 22 The objectives and roles of the Public Service Board will be revised to give emphasis to the need for humane personnel management, for an open, representative, and responsive bureaucracy, and for development of closer relationships between Government employees and the community they serve.
- 23 The Commonwealth Employees (Employment Provisions) Act 1977 will be repealed.
- 24 The determination of wages and conditions of employment by conciliation and arbitration should be put on an equal footing with private employees. The Public Service Arbitration jurisdiction will be abolished and integrated with the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. The power of

dis-allowance of determinations made shall be removed and Section 66 of the Public Service Act repealed.

- 25 A uniform 36½-hour week within the Australian Public Service shall be implemented provided that this does not merely result in an increase in the amount of regular overtime, and is consistent with procedures followed in other areas of Government employment where reductions in hours of work to this standard have been achieved.
- 26 All contracts made by the Australian Government, or by authorities of the Australian Government, will be required to provide for preference to unionists. Observance of award rates and conditions (including the provisions of the Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act) by contractors and sub-contractors, and the provision, where appropriate, for observance of policies generally applied to the Australian Government workforce, will also be required.
- 27 All contracts made by the Australian Government, or by authorities of the Australian Government, will be given only to firms or persons who employ a substantial percentage of day labour and the required proportion of apprentices, and who do not practice discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, politics, or creed.
- 28 Efficiency and morale in the Public Service will be restored through adequate funding, the abolition of staff ceilings and the proper staffing of Departments and authorities according to need.

D Work Environment

To achieve the goals set out in this section, Labor pledges itself to an integrated long-term programme to improve the quality of the working environment and to make our industrial laws, practices and institutions more aware of, and responsive to, the human needs and preferences of that majority of our people who constitute its workforce. Recognising that work is not only a source of income but a means of personal development, proper consideration of the work environment must include those factors which dictate the choice of work, recognise the infinite variety of human preference, and accept that economic insecurity and personal strains can negate all efforts to improve the dignity of work and the human satisfaction derived from it.

A Labor Government will—

- 1 Direct its programme towards achieving a just industrial society in which—
 - a all Australians have a right to work, have a chance to exercise that right and have a genuinely free choice of work in accordance with their personal desires and preferences;
 - b the workplaces of the nation provide safety for the workforce, adequate amenities for their welfare and their com-

- fort, an atmosphere which encourages friendship and social community, and systems of work designed in consultation with the employees which provide scope for the exercise of choice and individuality and which respect their human dignity and vocational satisfaction; and
- c questions of industrial safety are determined solely by the need to prevent injury and to rehabilitate the injured, not by economic considerations.
 - 2 Emphasise and develop concern for industrial safety, health and welfare, and establish a responsibility shared constructively between management and employees by—
 - a establishing enforceable national codes in conformity with advanced thought and the most recent research on these matters;
 - b legislating for employees' safety representatives with effective powers at all levels of industry;
 - c establishing facilities for the proper training of safety representatives at no loss to themselves; and
 - d encouraging and financing joint industry initiatives designed to identify and treat physical and mental health problems which become apparent in industry.
 - 3 In collaboration with the States, seek to establish a major and vigorous programme of action, research and keeping of official and up to date statistics on questions of occupational health and medicine, accident prevention and the rehabilitation of injured workers. Extend the inadequate levels of expert assistance available to injured workers in their attempts to re-establish themselves, and relate the costs of this programme to industries and enterprises in proportion to their record of industrial safety. Ensure that the financial burdens entailed in dealing with the human dimension of industrial accidents are not hidden in impersonal insurance arrangements.
 - 4 In order to enhance the personal satisfaction, health and welfare of its employees, encourage—
 - a the organisation of work and work time to meet the convenience of employees as individuals and members of a wider community, so as to foster the development of increased leisure and the means to enjoy it;
 - b the establishment of standards of amenities appropriate to different enterprises including industrial facilities complementary to those available in the areas of social welfare, child care, and personal counselling; and
 - c the establishment of workers' representatives, dealing with questions concerning amenities with particular reference to employees and groups most in need.
 - 5 Co-ordinate the development and implementation of occupational safety and health programmes for its own workforce by placing the responsibility for such in a single minister. Consequently—

- a the responsibility for the research and development of occupational health standards and the monitoring of their application will be organised by the creation of a special unit to carry out this work headed by a statutory office holder with direct access to the minister. This statutory office holder will be assisted by a national advisory committee with substantial union representation thereon to be nominated by the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) and Council of Australian Government Employee Organisations (CAGEO). The work of this unit will be made freely available to State governments, the union movement and private employer organisations; and
- b in order to overcome the existing shortage of occupational health personnel adequate resources will be allocated to develop and implement training programmes for occupational health medical and para-medical specialists including nurses.

E Industrial Democracy

Preamble

Labor—

Declares that industrial democracy is a natural extension of the democratic right of working people.

Is committed to the principle that democracy can only truly exist when citizens are given an effective say in the decisions affecting their lives. At present the vast majority of workers have to forego their democratic rights at their place of work. Recognises that what happens at a person's work place affects the material well-being, physical and mental health of the workers and their relationships with their fellow human beings. What people do in their jobs can promise satisfaction or dissatisfaction, a feeling of involvement or apathy, a sense of being useful or a sense of being an unnecessary appendage to a system.

Believes it is because of the pervasive influence that our working environment has on our lives that there should be a fundamental reform in the employment relationship so that employees are no longer the object of economic circumstances decided by someone else.

Believes that workers have a substantial investment in the enterprise or organisation in which they work. Instead of investing capital, like shareholders, workers invest their lives and their health in their work organisation

Affirms the right of all workers through their unions to participate in the decisions that affect their investment in the work place.

Recognises that changes in education, technology and community values, represent important developments in the community encouraging industrial democracy.

Asserts that industrial democracy is concerned with sharing power and responsibility within the work place. The changes taking place within industry and the economy cannot be accommodated by a reliance on traditional forms of managerial control. Traditional enterprises are organised on the basis of a hierarchy of power and have a responsibility to include workers at all levels of an enterprise.

Recognises that both representative and participative industrial democracy programmes cannot be effective without the support and active involvement of the trade union movement. Supports industrial democracy because it extends democratic rights to and is of direct benefit to workers. Labor is opposed to changes in the organisation of work which do little more than provide management with an additional tool to control the operation of enterprises.

Recognises that any and all forms of industrial democracy must include adequate information being made available to the workers. Its importance for the success of subsequent forms of industrial democracy depend greatly on the quality of information and the nature of its dissemination.

Asserts that employees at all levels should have access to information concerning the operation and viability of organisations in which they work. A free flow of information will give employees the opportunity to consider matters important to them in a thorough and reasonable way.

Stresses the need to continually monitor the introduction of industrial democracy in Australia and undertake constant re-evaluation of developments.

Recognises the right diversity of experiments in industrial democracy, both overseas and in Australia. While the introduction of industrial democracy must be tailored to Australian conditions and environment, it is counter-productive to specify a detailed model of industrial democracy which must be followed in all industries.

Believes that the special features of the various State and the Australian industrial structures emphasises the need to allow for variations in the forms of industrial democracy. These must be flexible so that they are able to suit the individual needs of different organisations.

Concludes that it is desirable for employees to be encouraged to be involved in industrial democracy projects which allow for the special features of the industry or enterprise concerned. The over-riding consideration is that these projects are designed to re-distribute power so as to achieve sharing of power and responsibility within the enterprise or industry.

Definition

The principle of industrial democracy is concerned with the provision of opportunities and the right of workers to have

a say and influence in decision making within the work place without fear or recrimination. This principle means that the trade union movement should no longer accept the concept of the master-servant relationship and the inequality which the master-servant relationship implies. The removal of the relationship does not mean however, that industrial democracy is, or can be, a substitute for the traditional functions of trade unions or the existence of trade unions. Industrial democracy is an industrial matter and like all other industrial matters is the legitimate concern of trade unions.

Labor believes that industry and the public sector can be more efficient when workers are involved in decisions at their place of work.

The development of industrial democracy will take the form of representative and participative industrial democracy. Representative forms of industrial democracy shall mean adequate worker representatives being elected by workers involved in the enterprise or the undertaking on committees, councils, decision-making bodies and boards. Representative forms of industrial democracy can take place at all levels of the enterprise or undertaking and should grow organically within a work organisation.

Participative forms of industrial democracy shall mean self-managing groups or semi-autonomous work groups at all levels within the enterprise. The representative and participative forms of industrial democracy shall involve workers in determining their work environment and enterprise objectives. The forms of industrial democracy shall also take account of the social and human needs of the workers of the enterprise or undertaking.

Current Practice

Various techniques employed in Australia today such as consultative committees, job rotation, job enrichment and job enlargement do not, in themselves, constitute industrial democracy. If these techniques are developed on the basis of an agreement being reached between employers, unions and their members, this could lead to the development of proper and comprehensive forms of industrial democracy in Australia.

There are a number of other techniques being employed in Australia which do not provide an increase in the discretionary decision-making power of workers but are merely guises for improving the return to owners and consolidating the powers of management elites. Most existing forms of organisation development, management by objectives, employee shareholding schemes, management open-door policies, suggestion box schemes and profit-sharing schemes fall within this category.

Labor does not accept that these techniques, the way that they are administered and the objectives which underlie them, are consistent with the development of industrial democracy.

Industrial Democracy Preconditions

Industrial democracy cannot be viewed in a vacuum and account must be taken of the reality of Australian industrial relations systems. The most pertinent factors relevant in this context include—

- a the need to ensure job security for workers and the provision of such accompanying measures as adequate redundancy payments, re-training schemes and re-location schemes;
- b recognition and agreement that our industrial relations system is based upon the trade unions as the legal representatives of employees;
- c recognition that where employees are members of trade unions the shop stewards or job delegates are the local union representatives of the work force;
- d provision for rights to sharing of information regarding the work organisations between the parties will need to take place;
- e provision of appropriate educational facilities and educational opportunities for trade unions, employees and management;
- f provision of appropriate protective procedures to ensure that workers who seek or obtain representative positions are not discriminated against;
- g the need to ensure that the quality of the general physical, working environment is improved; and
- h the need to develop a positive attitude among directors, management, employees and trade union officials about the aims and objectives of industrial democracy.

The whole of the Industrial Relations sections of the National Platform shall be used as the minimum requirements in achieving the implementation of the industrial democracy policy.

Involvement of Trade Unions

Trade unions are an integral and extremely important part of the Australian industrial relations environment. Industrial democracy raises new principles to be considered within the industrial relations system. These new measures that are raised by industrial democracy cannot be divorced entirely from the more traditional industrial relation concerns. Therefore, it is essential for the development of constructive industrial relations that trade unions concerning employees affected should be consulted and be involved in the development of industrial democracy programmes.

The way in which trade unions should be involved is through negotiations with management and the establishment with management of agreements of understanding and agreements of specific undertakings. These agreements are desirable in order to document the specific details of industrial democracy programmes. Also, they will establish the exact nature of union, worker-management rights and obligations. If it does not prove possible to reach joint agreement between unions and management on such matters then the industrial democracy programmes shall not proceed.

The Australian Labor Government and all State Labor Governments shall play a leading role in demonstrating the importance of this principle by instituting such a policy in the public sector, and ensuring that only Government advisory bodies act in accord with this principle in both the public and private sectors.

Legislation

Labor recognises that although many industrial democracy schemes and experiments can proceed without legislation, various Acts regulating the relationship between employees and employers and the process of decision-making in the public and private sectors will need substantive and positive revision to remove obstacles to industrial democracy.

Calls upon the Australian and State Governments to introduce facilitative legislation to provide for the principles enunciated above. The nature of the Australian industrial relations system requires action by Australian and State Governments to effectively facilitate the introduction of industrial democracy.

Stresses that proper consultation will take place between Governments, the trade unions and management bodies prior to the introduction of legislation and amendments to existing legislation regarding industrial democracy.

Calls upon the Australian and State Governments to review and enact legislation to facilitate the development of industrial democracy in public service departments and in statutory authorities.

Bargaining and Legal Rights

The traditional acceptance of managerial prerogatives which have dominated decisions of arbitral tribunals throughout Australia is inconsistent with the development of industrial democracy.

Processes of conciliation and negotiation should be used in order to overcome the conservative and narrow interpretation of the powers to intervene in managerial matters. The Government should encourage unions and employers to utilise these processes and introduce industrial democracy through collective bargaining.

Any agreements reached through collective bargaining should be given a legal recognition to provide workers and employers with protection, rights and obligations in the performance of their duties. It is recognised that any agreement not having the support of the workers or their unions is contrary to this policy of industrial democracy.

Review Procedures

Labor calls upon an Australian Labor Government to appoint an industrial democracy committee to monitor the introduction and development of forms of industrial democracy and to review appropriate strategies and policies. The Australian Labor Government should report the progress of the implementation of the above policy to each Biennial National Conference.

F The Constitution

Labor believes that the Commonwealth industrial power contained in S.51(35) of the Constitution is outmoded and an insufficient basis for the provision of a modern, equitable and flexible industrial relations system in Australia.

- 1 A Labor Government will seek the repeal of S.51(35) of the Constitution as it is presently worded and will propose a replacement which provides that—
 - a the Australian Parliament shall have power with respect to the terms and conditions of employment.
- 2 This power shall comprise power—
 - a as at present, to make laws with respect to the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes by means of conciliation and arbitration; and
 - b to establish authorities of the Commonwealth, and authorise authorities established by or under the laws of a State, to determine terms and conditions of employment and the terms and conditions of contractual relationships with independent contractors and to prevent and settle industrial disputes.

G The Conciliation and Arbitration Act

The Conciliation and Arbitration Act has been subject to continuous ad hoc amendment for a number of years. The public and practitioners alike are bewildered by its complexity and its lack of coherent industrial philosophy. Labor's policy will involve immediate action to remove obvious deficiencies in the Act and will also establish a major tripartite committee of inquiry to overhaul and review the Act in toto.

- 1 Immediate Action—
 - a the abolition of the Industrial Relations Bureau and as a consequence—

- i the restoration of the Arbitration Inspectorate function within a Department of Employment and Industrial Relations on an adequately resourced basis; and
 - ii the enhancement of the advising capacity of the Industrial Registrar concerning the rules and operations of industrial organisations;
 - b the repeal of all penalties for strikes against arbitral decisions of the Commission or a conciliation committee and the prohibition of action by the Commission to insert or register clauses in awards or agreements excluding the right of workers to resort to industrial action;
 - c the consolidation of the existing Conciliation and Arbitration Act and regulations; and
 - d the allocation of additional resources to ensure the more expeditious provision of Commission decisions, awards and arbitration reports.
- 2 Subsequent action—
- Among the changes and issues to be considered through a total review of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act are—
- a a strengthening of the role of registered organisations along the lines outlined in Section (B), Trade Unions;
 - b the basis and duration of appointments to the Commission;
 - c problems of anomalies arising from differing standards of pay and conditions between state and federal awards for the same or similar work;
 - d securing the immunity of unions and their members from action for tort in respect of torts alleged to have been committed by or on behalf of a trade union in contemplation or furtherance of a labour dispute excepting for wilful acts that directly cause death or injury to persons, physical damage to property, the threat of such actions or wilful acts that constitute defamation; and
 - e in situations where no award provision exists, the need to establish the power of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission to deal with industrial disputes which would otherwise be covered by common law, for instance, in cases involving the standing down of employees.
- 3 The terms of reference for the Inquiry into the Conciliation and Arbitration system and industrial relations in Australia are to be determined through consultation with trade union and employer bodies.

H Agreements

Labor believes that—

- 1 A system of collective bargaining is an essential right of the trade union movement and that good industrial relations will be best achieved by agreement arrived at between trade unions and employers.

I International Labor Organisation Conventions

Australia recognises the importance of the establishment and adoption of International Labor Standards through its continued support and membership of the ILO.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will—

1. Seek to use the influence and prestige of the Australian Government as a positive force for the improvement of industrial standards throughout the world and for the benefit of workers and people everywhere by initiating and supporting moves to seek the adoption of new and modern conventions and recommendations.
2. Where Australian conditions meet or exceed requirements of ILO Conventions, take all steps possible to secure the early agreement of the States for ratification of such Conventions.
3. Where the decisions of the ILO provide for conditions which are more beneficial than those already existing in Australia, implement such decisions in respect of employees in the Territories of Australia. In addition, take all steps possible to secure the co-operation of the States for ratification of such decisions and their implementation either through legislation or other means, so that their benefits may be enjoyed by all Australian employees.
4. Ensure that Australia is adequately represented at ILO meetings.

J Trade Union Training

An efficient, progressive and well led trade union movement is of crucial importance to all Australians. The education of leaders and potential leaders of trade unions in representative skills and industrial knowledge is a national responsibility.

In recognition of this the ALP in Government established the Australian Trade Union Training Authority (TUTA) in 1975. Under the 1975 Act the independent Authority was representative of and responsive to all sectors of the trade union movement as well as being properly accountable to parliament for the expenditure of public monies. Consequently it attracted the confidence and support of the trade union movement and an extensive and successful training programme resulted.

Unfortunately the conservative governments since 1975 have constantly meddled in the affairs of the Authority, appointed an unwarranted Committee of Inquiry, rejected the principal recommendations of that Committee of Inquiry, interfered

with the decision making processes of the Authority and starved it of adequate funds. This has had the effect of retarding the proper development of trade union training and causing unions to doubt the independence of the Authority.

A future Labor Government will guarantee a properly independent TUTA by the provision of sufficient funding, by the restoration of decision making powers to union training councils having a majority of trade union representation. This will also be achieved by encouraging the provision of adequate paid education leave, covering courses not only run by the TUTA, but any course authorised by the ACTU, CAGEO, their respective branches and affiliated unions.

K Consultative Machinery

Labor recognises the need to expand and strengthen consultation procedures between trade unions, employers and Government. Labor will, in consultation with the parties involved, establish the necessary consultative machinery with a view to creating opportunities for genuine consultation and discussion. These objectives would be pursued in part through the review of the National Labour Consultative Council (NLCC) and other bodies such as the Standing Tripartite Commission on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the National Employee Participation Steering Committee (NEPSC) and consultative committees similar to the Occupational Health and Safety Committee in Australian Government employment. Labor will also examine the possibility of the establishment of additional consultative machinery on issues which whilst not strictly industrial relations matters nonetheless have industrial implications. These issues could include topics such as environment, consumer affairs, trade and tariff reform.

L Trans-National Corporations

Labor will continue to police international standards set down for the proper industrial relations behaviour of TNC's in Australia. Recognising that international union organisation is an essential step for organised labour to deal effectively with TNC's, Labor will—

- a assist the trade union movement to monitor the global activities of TNC's;
- b support international trade union secretariats; and
- c give financial support for reciprocal international contact between trade unions.

M Research

A Labor Government will establish within a Department of Employment and Industrial Relations an office of economic and social research incorporating a bureau of industrial information and research which, in consultation with the Statistician, will compile and compute information and undertake research on all matters relevant to industrial affairs for the use of industrial commissions, trade unions and employers' organisations.

Resolutions

1979 National Conference

1 NATIONAL SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

Whilst recognising elsewhere in our policy that a Labor Government is committed to introducing a national superannuation scheme we recall the opposition of our political opponents to the concept whilst we were in office.

We also note with concern and condemn the rejection by the Fraser Government of the recommendation of the Committee of Inquiry headed by Professor Hancock which proposed a national superannuation scheme.

In this context this conference notes with approval the recent steps taken by unions in pursuing claims on employers for union directed retirement funds which recognise the following principles—

- a that superannuation is an economic right;
- b such schemes to provide for full portability;
- c such schemes to be non-discriminatory as between its members;
- d the benefits of such schemes to rest immediately with the member and be regarded as a capital asset of that member;
- e that the member has a say in how the money is invested; and
- f that the administrators of the fund are fully accountable to the members.

To this end a Labor Government would review the relevant existing legislation and make any necessary amendments to facilitate unions pursuing such claims.

15 Industry Development

A Introduction

Labor's policy priorities for industrial development in Australia are—

To provide full employment with rewarding jobs along with price stability and rising living standards.

To develop more productive, viable and internationally competitive industries.

To encourage the use and manufacture of modern technology in such a way that the whole community benefits from its application, but is protected against its adverse effects.

To maintain and extend a viable and diversified manufacturing sector in Australia, in order to preserve the capacity of Australia's manufacturing sector to cater for domestic needs, so that the effects of severe disruptions in the international economy and the risk of undue pressure from external sources will be minimised.

To ensure that Australian equity in Australian enterprise is realistically maximised.

Changes which are necessary should not be left to the dictates of market forces, because costs would then be borne by a few and benefits not spread to the many.

It is essential therefore that change takes place in such a way that—

- a it is planned and carried out in the context of an expanding economy;
- b its effects are known and understood;
- c adequate means of communication exist between all groups likely to be affected; and
- d the benefits of change are shared on a fair and equitable basis.

B The Industry Strategy

Labor believes that a strong manufacturing industry is necessary for the achievement of our primary objective of full employment. The manufacturing sector is experiencing and will continue to experience serious problems which are exemplified in declining employment. The causes of these problems are complex and largely international in origin.

There are no simple solutions. However, government can and should influence both the pattern and direction of change.

The manufacturing sector is an important direct and indirect contributor to employment, economic independence, regional diversification, import replacement, consumer choice and reliability of supply.

Labor recognises the pressures imposed on many sections of the manufacturing industry by international rates of consumer demand, increases in mineral exports, higher energy costs and the increasing influence of TNC's on the manufacturing sector.

To achieve a healthy industrial sector, Labor will—

- 1 Provide means for governments, employers and employees to plan together for change and produce industry by industry plans based on an improved exchange of information and a recognition of the unique problems of specific regions.
- 2 Encourage greater efficiency/productivity by providing programme stimulate revitalisation of existing industries including improved industrial research and development facilities.
- 3 Foster increased activity in those industries in which we have a comparative advantage because of Australian inventiveness, skills or the possession of natural resources.
- 4 Formulate special plans for certain manufacturing industries which are large employers of labour either nationally or regionally; recognising, particularly at times of high unemployment, their sensitive position, and the need to provide adequate assistance to support employment in them.
- 5 Develop new, viable industries where Australia is internationally competitive because of our resources, research and/or export opportunities including such development by the provision of funds for capital formation, whether by loans, subsidies or equity participation.
- 6 Regulate the fishing industry within the area of the 200-mile economic resources zone (see Minerals and Energy Platform) in the interests of conservation of resources, with a view to promoting the exploitation of those resources by Australian fishing fleets complemented by the establishment on Australian soil of efficient processing and maintenance facilities.
- 7 Pursue trading opportunities with vigour and provide the necessary climate for expansion of exports, particularly manufacturing exports.
- 8 Phase out, where possible, employment taxes and certain indirect taxes and subsidies which discriminate against particular industries and/or employment in those industries.
- 9 Establish policies and plans in close co-operation with our trading partners, particularly those in our own region, thus seeking not only optimum employment opportunities in Australia, but also an increase in our trading partners' living standards.
- 10 Ensure by government purchasing policies and by other means that Australian work opportunities are created when large capital items (e.g. computers and defence equipment) are imported, including by offset agreements and/or the establish-

ment of joint ventures between Australian and overseas manufacturing enterprises.

- 11 Initiate enterprise, both public and private, to regenerate Australian industry (thus creating employment and wealth) and to ensure that Australian equity is realistically maximised by such matters as using a restructured Australian Industry Development Corporation, developing a National Investment Fund as a source of finance, providing government ownership wholly or in part, and encouraging co-operatives.

C New Technology

Recognising that the introduction of new technology results in costs as well as benefits to the community, Labor will—

- 1 Establish an independent, widely representative Technology Planning Council, including trade union representatives, to evaluate the socio-economic effects of new technology and advise the Government in the formulation of plans to cope with the inevitable social and economic readjustments.
- 2 Require the Council to—
 - a conduct major surveys on new technology with a view to evaluate the socio-economic effects on new technology and economy and forecasting the expected impact over the foreseeable future;
 - b develop a National Information Policy that is comprehensive, sensitive to new technology and responsive to the development of new methods of gathering, storing, disseminating and securing equitable access to information;
 - c prepare "technology impact statements" when requested by Governments, and/or unions; and
 - d police a code of conduct establishing social guidelines in relation to its introduction, guarding in particular the maintenance of civil liberties and the right to personal privacy and the democratic rights of workers to participate in decisions affecting their working conditions.
- 3 Labor will stimulate the development of an Australian computer industry by—
 - a augmenting the Australian Industry Participation Offsets Scheme with a joint venture scheme which involves manufacturing, research and development etc., with the participation of Australian governments and Australian owned organisation.
 - b using governments' purchasing power to encourage Australian manufacture of major computer components in Australia;
 - c planning for initial developments to be oriented towards the manufacture of computer software and computer peripheral equipment; and
 - d planning long-term priorities to encourage the manufacture in Australia of major components.

D Sharing the Benefits

Labor will ensure that the benefits of change are fairly shared by Australian consumers in the form of relatively lower prices and by Australian workers in the form of higher real wages, reduced working hours and improved working conditions, by such means as—

- 1 Encouraging the establishment of industrial democracy in both private and public sector organisations so that Australian workers have a say in how changes affect them in the workplace.
- 2 Promoting the development of stronger, more involved trade unions by expanding trade union education and research by encouraging the amalgamation of related unions, and by recognising the right of trade unions to be equal participants in decision making concerning changes which affect their members.
- 3 Monitoring the activities of TNC's operating in Australia and by devising policies to ensure that these companies operate in the national interest.
- 4 Encouraging equity participation by employees in Australian enterprise.
- 5 Extending and co-ordinating the operations of the Prices Justification Tribunal and the Trade Practices Commission, by widening their charters and providing them with adequate resources, so that they are more effective in ensuring that excessive profits are not made by those advantaged by change.

E Sharing the Costs

Recognising that the changes necessary to Australian industry will involve some transfer of labour between occupations, industries and regions, and that these movements should not penalise individuals who through no fault of their own are affected by such changes, Labor will, as detailed in the Employment section of this platform—

- 1 Ensure that there exists adequate and co-ordinated training and retraining programmes and relocation and income maintenance schemes;
- 2 Develop manpower forecasting and planning procedures which will provide Government with information on—
 - a where jobs may be lost;
 - b where new employment opportunities exist; and
 - c the schemes necessary to match people with job opportunities.

F Tourism

The ALP believes that with the increasing tempo of technological change resulting in increased leisure time, one of the major areas of growth will be in the tourist industry.

Tourism offers, alongside its economic, educational and social benefits, a means of assisting Australians to appreciate their national heritage and of fostering better relations between Australia and other nations. It also acts as a major stimulus to decentralisation and, being labour intensive, offers a wide range of employment opportunities to those most affected by economic downturns: women, the young, ethnic communities and the unskilled.

An Australian Labor Government will therefore place greater stress on promoting the growth of tourism by—

- 1 Undertaking a major overseas campaign to promote Australia as a major tourist destination.
- 2 Encourage Australians to travel within their own country.
- 3 Investigate the provision of incentives to the tourist industry to upgrade their accommodation stock.
- 4 Develop Australia's tourist attractions to world standards in particular man-made attractions, interpretive facilities, historic buildings and convention facilities.
- 5 Improve the quality of roads and highways that service Australia's major tourist destinations.

Resolutions

1979 National Conference

1 TECHNOLOGY PLANNING COUNCIL

- 1 A Labor Government will establish a Technology Planning Council which will, among other things, prepare "Technology Impact Statements". Such statements shall—
 - a state the objectives of the proposed action;
 - b contain a description of the proposed action;
 - c analyse the need for the proposed action;
 - d indicate the consequences of not taking the proposed action;
 - e examine any feasible and prudent alternative to the proposed action;
 - f include information and technical data adequate to permit the careful assessment of the impact on the workforce of the proposed action;
 - g describe the effects on the workplace and employment that is likely to be effected by the proposed action, and by any posed action, including short-term, long-term, adverse and feasible and prudent alternative to the proposed action;
 - h assess the potential impact on unemployment of the proposed action, including the effects on employment of the proposed action and of any feasible and prudent alternative to the proposed action;
 - i outline the reasons for the choice of the proposed action;
 - j cite any sources of information relied upon and outline any consultations and or negotiations during the preparation of the Technological Impact Statement;
 - k describe and analyse the effects and costs of any redundancy upon Government services and benefits; and
 - l describe and analyse the effects and cost upon the community on any redundancy likely to arise from taking the proposed action.
- 2 This Conference, recognising the above, states further that it will be necessary to ensure that—
 - a an assessment of the costs and benefits of technological change in terms of the economic and social impact should be prepared by the enterprise proposing change and evaluated by the Technology Planning Council;
 - b the benefits of technological change be shared equitably by those directly affected by the change and the community at large. In particular, to encourage the implementation of new working arrangements which are designed to increase leisure time and to maintain adequate numbers of job opportunities.

- c consultation occur at all stages in the process of change. All parties involved in the change should be provided with comprehensive information on matters such as the basis of the proposed change, the timing of the change and the alternatives which exist;
- d consideration will be made at plant, industry and national levels of the needs of particular groups of people affected by technological change for whom special action may be required to enable them to continue in employment;
- e provision will be made for retraining schemes by appropriate authorities and bodies within the community to assist employees affected by change to acquire new skills when individual employers are unable to provide such training;
- f the application of new technology at the workplace produces improvements in working conditions, skills and the quality of work life; and
- g civil liberties and, in particular, the rights to personal privacy, is adequately protected against infringement by computer technology.

2 ALP TASKFORCE ON NEW TECHNOLOGY

Resolution subsequent to the committee report—

- 1 Notwithstanding the relevant policy sections on technological change continued within the platform, Conference recommends that the ALP conducts a thorough analysis of the effects and benefits of new technology on Australian society.
- 2 Further, Conference asserts there is a need to stimulate debate and understanding within the ALP of the issues raised by technological change.
- 3 Accordingly, Conference recommends—
 - a the establishment of a National Task Force comprising up to three representatives from each State and Territory together with two representatives from the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party (FPLP); and
 - b that this task force work with the National Secretariat and Policy Resources Unit to undertake a thorough analysis of technological change with the view of developing a comprehensive national policy which—
 - i asserts the right to work;
 - ii redefines concepts of work;
 - iii redefines concepts of leisure;
 - iv examines the role of education;
 - v examines the role of social welfare;
 - vi examines other related matters;
 - vii guarantees the right to freedom of information; and

viii ensures that by adequate controls the benefits of new technology are shared throughout society.

- 4 the task force would be required to—
 - a advertise widely for interested groups, individuals, party members and affiliates to make submissions; and
 - b to conduct regional Party seminars.
- 5 At the conclusion of this programme, the task force would prepare a detailed report and recommendations to be presented to the National Executive by July, 1980.

16 Machinery of Government

A Preamble

Implementation of Labor's policies relies significantly on effective machinery of government. A commitment to creative government intervention need not, however, lead to ever growing government bureaucracy. What is crucial is that the machinery of government be adaptive, innovative, efficient, democratic, and above all, responsive and accountable to the constitutional authority of the Parliament and the elected executive.

B Overall Policy Co-ordination and Control

Labor will institute reforms to improve policy development, programme implementation and programme evaluation. These major processes require—

- 1 A strong co-operative relationship between the Cabinet and the Parliamentary Labor Party (Caucus).
- 2 Strengthened Cabinet power, procedures and resources for forming, implementing and evaluating policy.
- 3 Arrangements between ministers and with the public service to ensure that decisions are practicable and can be promptly implemented.
- 4 Effective means of ensuring Parliament's capacity to scrutinise the implementation of laws and policies and to participate in their evaluation.
- 5 Thorough explanation to the public of government policies and the provision of channels to enable Party, trade union and public reaction and views on effectiveness of policies to be conveyed to the government.
- 6 Comprehensive and integrated planning in the allocation of expenditure priorities in the public sector and the examination from time to time of the institutional arrangements necessary to achieve this.
- 7 Co-operative committees to facilitate the consultation and co-ordination with the States and Local Government that is required for the full implementation of the Government's programmes.
- 8 A strong co-operative relationship between the Federal, State and Territory Parliamentary Labor Parties, the Australian Labor Party and trade union movement. To co-ordinate Federal, State and Territory Parliamentary Parties, regular meetings of unionists and shadow ministers will be held.
- 9 Establish a system of priorities review to co-ordinate programmes and regularly assess the government's progress in attaining Labor's goals.

C The Public Service

Labor is committed to a public service which is dynamic and adaptive and fully utilises the capacity of individuals serving in the public sector.

Labor endorses the concept of a career service which is responsive to changing community values and needs, and is able to mobilise departmental structures to carry out a Labor Government's policies.

A Labor Government will—

- 1 Appreciating the essential political, as distinct from partisan, role of senior public servants and the needs for more flexible and democratic staffing structures—
 - a guard against any group or department developing itself into an exclusive elite with excessive powers, administrative dominance and/or unwarranted conditions of employment;
 - b repeal the Public Service (First Division Officers) Amendment Act 1976 and replace it with a more flexible system of Government appointment of departmental heads;
 - c specifically encourage mobility between and within departments and especially between central co-ordinating and operating departments;
 - d develop the process of appointing officers with special expertise, on secondment or contract, to create a more open and responsive service;
 - e specifically encourage and enable the long and short term exchange of personnel between the Public Service and the private sector, educational institutions, unions, special interest groups, and the State services, with recruitment conditions and superannuation provision which allow this mobility;
 - f while maintaining the merit principle in selection, undertake special programmes of recruitment, encouragement and training to ensure a rapid increase of representation at senior levels of sections of the workforce currently under-represented, e.g. women, migrants and aborigines;
 - g abolish the British subject requirement for entry into the Public Service;
 - h create more open and participatory management structures within departments; and
 - i require a Technological Impact Statement on the introduction of new technology in government departments.
- 2 Review existing statutory authorities and make necessary changes to ensure their accountability to the Parliament and minister, and their adherence to the principles of public administration as set out in this platform. In addition—

- a ensure that when new functions of government are established, that so far as possible these are carried out within ministerial departments; and
 - b introduce where appropriate 'sunset' legislation to set fixed terms to the life of government authorities to ensure a regular review of their functions and efficiency.
- 3 Believing that public servants need both authority and responsibility to do their best work, extend the practice of accountable management throughout the Public Service in order to decentralise and delegate a capacity to act effectively, and to encourage individual initiative within departments.
 - 4 Introduce improved budgeting systems to define objectives clearly and to increase financial responsibilities of programme managers.
 - 5 Support the conduct of efficiency audits and effectiveness reviews on a continuing basis, and monitor programmes rigorously to ensure that the programmes achieve their stated objectives.
 - 6 In place of staff ceilings introduce manpower budgeting arrangements to better relate the staffing and establishment management process to government policies and priorities.
 - 7 Ensure the devolution from the top, and from Canberra, of decision-making so as to give local officers and counter staff, discretion to deal with the problems of individuals and to ensure that such staff are responsive to the needs of the community.
 - 8 Ensure that, in order to improve government accountability and responsibility, the community has access to government information through—
 - a freedom of information legislation with narrow exemptions, including the mandatory release of internal working documents when the Administrative Appeals Tribunal considers it in the public interest; and
 - b more open operating procedures and that new staff development programmes are introduced to train public servants for this widened role.
 - 9 Believing that the public service should be open to public participation in its decision-making, establish consultative processes such as advisory boards representative of community views.
 - 10 Ensure the effective operation of the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act and in particular permit exemption from its provisions only in exceptional circumstances.

17 Minerals and Energy

A Introduction

Labor's mineral and energy policies are based on the principle of government supervision of Australia's mining and petroleum industries through a policy of clear and consistent guidelines. This policy will be administered in consultation with industry and labour to establish a stable climate for long life investment that will provide growth to the Australian economy and equitably share Australia's resource based wealth between producers and the community. The aim of the policy is the orderly and balanced development of Australia's natural resources. This is in harmony with Labor's clear and long standing commitment to the Australian ownership and control of its own industries. Labor's domestic energy policy is premised on the need to improve energy efficiency, to identify new energy reserves in the clear recognition of the finite nature of fossil fuels and of the long lead time required for the transition from conventional fuel to renewable sources of energy.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will—

- 1 Encourage the growth and expansion of the Australian capital market so that Australian companies can mobilise the capital required to participate in new resource ventures.
- 2 Promote, where desirable, the secondary processing of minerals in Australia to provide employment, upgrade the nation's basic infrastructure, and improve earnings.

B Ownership and Control

- 1 Maximise the Australian ownership and control of Australia's mineral and energy resources while recognising the continuing role to be played by foreign capital in the exploration and development of Australian resources.
- 2 Using its export powers under the Constitution, enforce the following equity requirements in resource development projects—
 - a required 51% Australian equity in all new projects, except for companies that are progressively shifting the level of foreign equity downwards in favour of Australian participation at a rate and on terms acceptable to a Labor Government;
 - b but in the event that domestic investors are either unable or unwilling to participate in a particular project, national development will not be impeded; and
 - c in the event of uranium development proceeding and because of the special circumstances of uranium, require

- i 75% Australian equity in pre-1977 discoveries; and
 - ii 100% Australian equity in the development stage of new (after 1977) discoveries.
- 3 In determining the level of permissible foreign equity and control of companies, closely examine offers and such matters as premium rates on stock and terms of participation before approval for a project with less than the minimum requirement of Australian equity is given.

C Environmental Controls

- 1 Ensure that all new mining projects must comply with requirements of the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974-75.

D Export Controls

- 1 Use the Australian Government's power under the constitution to—
 - a plan for the orderly development of Australia's mineral resources and prevent oversupply situations which result in a loss of national export income through lower prices and which lead to a misallocation of resources;
 - b supervise and monitor international resource negotiations between mining companies in Australia and overseas buyers to ensure that minerals exported are sold at prices commensurate with national interest;
 - c facilitate at international negotiations the presentation of a unified selling front by companies mining the major bulk minerals in Australia to minimise price and tonnage discrimination against individual producers which may result in a lower level of export earnings across particular industries;
 - d establish a unit to closely monitor the financial arrangements and transactions of vertically integrated mineral industries wholly or partly situated in Australia, such as the aluminium industry, to prevent transfer pricing or other practices which may exist to minimise income;
 - e improve the data base of the Department of Minerals and Energy to enable the Australian Government and the mining industry to base decisions upon the best information available on the state of the international resources market; and
 - f support developing countries in establishing improved international commodity arrangements which provide for fair returns to those countries.

E Taxation

- 1 Establish a secondary profits related resource tax or taxes for the following reasons—

- a mineral and energy resources belong to the Australian people;
- b the benefits of these resources should be shared equitably between producers and the Australian community;
- c windfall revenues may result from dramatic increases in world prices for particular commodities, from government pricing decisions, or from the exploitation of exceptionally low cost mineral deposits; but
- d mineral or hydrocarbon ventures with earnings within normal parameters should not be penalised.

F Energy Policy

Unlike many industrialised countries, Australia has the capacity for the generation of comparatively low cost electrical energy from its abundant low sulphur coal reserves and its level of insolation provides the potential for solar power development. Australia's geology is such that it rates poorly in prospectivity for hydrocarbons with the continent being more gas prone than oil prone. Australia's present high level of petroleum self sufficiency will decline unless further hydrocarbon reserves are identified and conservation measures implemented to effect reductions upon demand. The design of Australia's cities, the distances between centres and the paucity of efficient public transport will maintain the motor vehicle as the principal transport vehicle in the intermediate term.

Fuel conservation and the provision of liquid fuels for transport must be the central, and immediate preoccupations of Australian energy policy. It will involve consideration of substitute fuels for gasoline and the conversion by refining of heavy end petroleum products to lighter end fractions, such as motor spirit, though at the same time energy efficient public transport systems, independent of the motor vehicle, will be promoted. Natural gas must play an increasingly important role in Australian energy policy not only in the adequate provision of pipeline gas to our towns and cities for cooling, heating and industrial uses, but in the area of liquid fuel substitutes such as conversion to methanol for blending with gasoline or by direct route to petrol. Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG), which is in plentiful indigenous supply but which to date has been overlooked, must become a significant transport fuel. Labor policy will be directed towards extending our indigenous hydrocarbon reserves by exploration, substitution and synthesis. Research into alternative fuels such as ethanol, oil from coal and so on, will have a high priority.

Accordingly a Labor Government will—

- 1 Formulate a national energy policy which will have as its aim a long-term sustainable indigenous energy economy, in which energy resources and technologies are appropriate to the needs and goals of the Australian community and will encompass—
 - a the treatment of State and regional energy problems on an integral basis with national energy planning objectives;
 - b policy formulation on a co-operative basis with the States, including State representation on a National Fuel and Energy Commission;
 - c a lead by Commonwealth, State and Local Governments in efficient energy utilisation with governments occupying the forefront of energy practice synonymous with national energy policy objectives; and
 - d promotion of energy consciousness and conservation ideals in the public and private sectors and amongst individuals.

G National Fuel and Energy Commission

- 1 Establish a National Fuel and Energy Commission, composed of representatives of the National and State Governments, producers and consumers of energy, including representatives of the trade union movement, funded directly by the Australian Government and in turn responsible to the Australian Government through the Minister for Minerals and Energy, which will—
 - a assist the Australian Government in developing and implementing a co-ordinated fuel and energy policy;
 - b be responsible for planning and supporting a long-term energy research, development and demonstration programme for Australia with particular emphasis on alternative liquid fuel production and renewable energy resources;
 - c monitor the exploration, development, transport, price, marketing and use of all energy resources with the object of specifying the best energy mix for Australia;
 - d in co-operation with the Australian Science and Technology Council, be responsible for the national co-ordination and Federal funding of energy research and development in Australia, including in particular research relating to coal conversion and solar energy, and determine an order of priorities for such research.

The Fuel and Energy Commission will provide the Australian Government with detailed knowledge of existing energy research programmes, and of the resources available in Australia to carry out the greatly expanded research and development effort necessary to ensure that Australia has access to the new technologies necessary for the development of alternative energy resources, at the appropriate time; and

- e undertake the following activities specifically—
 - i encourage the development of new technologies for the conservation, production and efficient use of energy;
 - ii assessment of the impact on the social and natural environments of particular energy technologies and of the overall increase in *per capita* energy use;
 - iii identification of institutional barriers to the introduction of new energy technologies;
 - iv examination of the compatibility and present patterns of social and private investment with likely future availability and cost of energy; and
 - v allocation of funds at present administered by the National Energy Research and Demonstration Council.

H Petroleum

- 1 Intensify the national exploration effort for oil and gas through the establishment of firm guidelines and investment ground rules.
- 2 Establish crude oil pricing arrangements which allow for efficient production from new and existing fields at costs up to import parity.

Given the deleterious effects on the economy, such as increased inflation and unemployment and the reduction of Gross Domestic Product resulting from full OPEC price flow-ons, OPEC price increases will not be automatically passed on to all domestic oil production.

The pricing policy will, in conjunction with tax arrangements, ensure that proceeds of production from low cost fields are shared on an equitable basis between oil producers and the consuming public.

A percentage of the proceeds from this taxation will be devoted to alternative energy development as required by national energy planning and priorities.

- 3 Ensure acceptable performance by the petroleum companies with respect to investment in new refining capacity, distribution of alternative fuel (e.g. LPG), product prices and prices paid for imported oil, and particularly payments to overseas affiliates. This will be achieved by measures including where necessary, Government intervention in the industry.
- 4 Design direct measures to encourage the optimum use of LPG in the transport sector and particularly with the Commonwealth's own vehicle fleet and the fleets of the State and Local Governments.

I Australian Hydrocarbon Corporation

With the exception of the US, all of the oil exporting nations and every oil importing country of consequence have estab-

lished government companies for active involvement in the oil and gas industry.

The abrogation of national sovereignty over oil supplies to foreign controlled oil companies coupled with growing economic and political nationalism have been the major motivating factors in proliferation of government oil companies.

These factors are also pertinent to the Australian experience but the most compelling argument for direct government participation in the Australian oil and gas industry is the failure of the commercial incentive to produce a national exploitation effort of appropriate magnitude. An active and direct government programme of hydrocarbon search is an effective and immediate way of boosting exploration activity. State participation in the oil industry also provides a means for the nation to share fully in the benefits of its own oil and gas reserves without impeding a healthy level of private oil and gas activity.

The complexities of geological assessment and the integrated nature of the major oil companies impairs government access and ability to interpret information on oilfields and the inter-company distribution system. Only through participation can government acquire its own direct knowledge of the industry.

Government enterprise can enhance the nation's energy independence whilst providing other benefits as an integrated public oil company.

Accordingly, a Labor Government will—

- 1 Establish a State organisation to participate in the development of Australia's oil and gas resources.
- 2 This organisation shall be known as the Australian Hydrocarbon Corporation and will have a Board of Management responsible to the Minister for Minerals and Energy.
- 3 The Corporation will have strategic as well as commercial objectives and may engage in any of the activities of an integrated oil company, including downstream activities such as trading, refining and distribution.
- 4 It will operate independently or in joint venture with private companies.
- 5 In participation with private companies it will act commercially though where it operates solely it may, in the national strategic interest, explore and locate reserves and yet not develop them.
- 6 The corporation will be funded as appropriate by Commonwealth grants and loans, and by public borrowings.
- 7 It will provide information and advice to the government to assist in the development of national oil and gas policy.
- 8 The Australian Hydrocarbon Corporation will not be responsible for the regulation of oil and gas developments. This will be solely the responsibility of government.

J Natural Gas

- 1 Allow exports of natural gas from the North West Shelf sufficient to justify development expenditure, but not more than should be allowed in the national interest having regard to Australia's domestic demand for hydrocarbons.
- 2 Discourage, in normal circumstances, the use of natural gas for base-load electricity generation except where existing power stations use natural gas. Gas prices should reflect the need to maintain power prices which are competitive with coal-fired generation.

K Coal and Power Generation

- 1 Establish with the States, through the National Fuel and Energy Commission and the State statutory coal authorities, a policy of rational exploitation of Australia's coal resources, with particular regard to the limited resources of certain types of coal, domestic requirements for coal and the balanced development of Australia's coal exports.
- 2 The long term aim will be to expand the Commonwealth/New South Wales Joint Coal Board, so as to include other coal producing States.
- 3 Operate the foreign investment rules to prevent domination of coal reserves and coal marketing arrangements by major foreign interests, particularly oil companies.
- 4 Assist the States financially to delineate and reserve coal for future power generation requirements.
- 5 Provide additional loan allocations to the States to assist with the capital costs of power generation.

L Offshore Sovereignty

- 1 Commonwealth legislation to be passed for regulation and exploitation of all offshore resources within the 200 mile economic zone.
- 2 Introduce legislation to establish a Mining Code to enable the Commonwealth to supervise offshore exploration and development.
- 3 Repeal the Commonwealth Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967 and replace the service presently provided by State Departments of Mines under the State mirror legislation by the decentralisation of the relevant part of the present Department of National Development.

M Pipelines

- 1 Retain the National Pipeline Authority and insist that all new onshore natural gas pipelines are owned and controlled by

Government — State or Federal — to ensure that gas distribution satisfies national energy policy objectives.

- 2 Further investigate the economic feasibility of an interconnected trans-continental national pipeline grid to link Australia's industrial cities with gas-producing centres.

N Bureau of Mineral Resources

- 1 Upgrade the facilities and status of the Bureau of Mineral Resources so that it may better serve national policy formulation by providing basic information on the geological framework and mineral resources of the Australian Continent.

O Australian Minerals and Energy Council

- 1 Continue to consult and confer with State Governments through the Australian Minerals and Energy Council.

P Australian Atomic Energy Commission

Having regard for the current agglomeration of diverse and conflicting responsibilities of the Atomic Energy Commission and the repressive provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, the following will be undertaken—

- 1 a the current functions of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission will be divided;
b the Atomic Energy Act 1953-79 will be repealed and replaced by legislation to establish—
 - i an independent regulatory authority responsible for nuclear-related environmental protection, health, safety, security, safeguards and other non-proliferation activities;
 - ii a government corporation to conduct the present commercial activities of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, such as the production and marketing of radioisotopes; and
 - iii a Nuclear Science Authority to perform the other functions currently undertaken by the Australian Atomic Energy Commission in conformity with overall national energy policy objectives as determined by the Government.

Q Northern Territory Uranium

- 1 Repeal the Environment Protection (Nuclear Codes) Act 1978, The Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Act 1978 and The Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978, and a new Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act will be enacted to carry out Labor's Aboriginal Land Rights policy.

R Uranium

Recognising—

That the provision of Australian uranium to the world nuclear fuel cycle creates problems relevant to Australian sovereignty, the environment, the economic welfare of our people, and the rights and well-being of the Aboriginal people.

Believing that, having regard to the present unresolved economic, social, biological, genetic, environmental and technical problems associated with the mining of uranium and the development of nuclear power, and in particular—

- a to the proven contribution of the nuclear power industry to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the increased risk of nuclear war; and
- b the absence of procedures for the storage and disposal of radioactive wastes to ensure that any danger posed by such wastes to human life and the environment is eliminated.

It is imperative that no commitment of Australia's uranium deposits to the world's nuclear fuel cycle should be made until—

- a a reasonable time has elapsed for full public debate on, and consideration of, the issues;
- b the ALP is satisfied that the abovementioned problems have been solved; and
- c the Australian Government endorses Recommendation 6 of the First Fox Report, which states:
“a decision to mine and sell uranium should not be made unless the Commonwealth Government ensures that the Commonwealth can at any time . . . immediately terminate those activities, permanently, indefinitely or for a specific period.”

Accordingly, a Labor Government will—

- 1 a declare a moratorium on uranium mining and treatment in Australia;
- b repudiate any commitment of a non-Labor Government to the mining, processing or export of Australia's uranium; and
- c not permit the mining, processing or export of uranium pursuant to agreements entered into contrary to ALP policy.

S Nuclear Power

- 1 Prohibits the establishment in Australia of nuclear power plants and all other stages of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Resolutions

1979 National Conference

1 MARY KATHLEEN MINE (Re-endorsement)

This Conference asserts that in the event of the Mary Kathleen Mine being closed down by the Company or in the event of a shortfall from this source in fulfilling existing uranium export contracts, a Labor Government will not allow any new mine to be opened to honour those contracts, but will assist in arranging for the final discharge of obligations under those contracts from overseas sources, as outlined in the First Fox Report.

18 Primary Industry

A Introduction

Labor recognises that—

Primary industry plays an essential role in the Australian economy and the substantial contribution it makes to the well-being of the whole community.

Rural Policy must be an integral part of overall social and economic policy and directed towards meeting the needs of the entire population.

Primary producers are entitled to an adequate return for their product and an income that allows a standard of living similar to the accepted standards of the rest of the community.

A prime concern of Labor's Rural Policy is to ensure the proper use of Australia's resources in the long term interests of the community.

The levels of primary production should, as far as possible, be related to realistic domestic and overseas market demand, and in line with the long term economic trends in markets for primary products.

Instability in primary production, prices and incomes has far-reaching effects which impose heavy costs on primary producers, on consumers and on the economy as a whole.

B Production

A Labor Government will—

- 1 Commission a review of the 1974 Green Paper with particular reference to the prospects for new avenues of growth.
- 2 Seek to reduce the risks involved in primary production and to provide a more stable and predictable economic environment in which producers can plan for the future.
- 3 Support demand-supply management legislation for those industries which request such assistance to enable them to achieve these goals.
- 4 Ensure that world trends and prices for agricultural commodities be constantly monitored and promptly published in order to provide maximum information for farm decisions.

C Marketing

A Labor Government will—

- 1 Introduce measures, where necessary, to improve the bargaining position of farmers in the market place. In co-operation with State Governments, it will introduce legislation to provide for close scrutiny and supervision of contractual arrangements and to provide for arbitration procedures which would protect producers from exploitation.

- 2 Strengthen and enforce the exclusive dealings provision of the Trade Practices Act so as to ensure that farmers are protected from the adverse effects of 'tied arrangements' which bind the purchaser to buy other goods and services from the same supplier.
- 3 Where requested by a primary producer organisation representing an industry, review existing marketing legislation in consultation with the industry, and establish statutory marketing authorities. These shall represent producers, and where appropriate, other major groups in the industry. They shall if necessary, have power of acquisition.
- 4 Negotiate long-term international agreements to provide greater and more predictable access to overseas markets for Australian agricultural commodities and technical expertise.
- 5 Encourage the development and growth of overseas markets for Australian primary products by—
 - a establishing an Australian Government agency to co-ordinate and facilitate the sale of Australian primary products and assist service facilities to countries dealing on a Government to Government basis;
 - b appointing agricultural attaches and market intelligence officers, where appropriate;
 - c encouraging the promotion overseas of primary products; and
 - d providing infrastructure assistance to importing countries.

D Rural Co-operatives

A Labor Government will support—

- 1 The formation of voluntary marketing groups through which farmers can command a better price for their products.
- 2 The involvement of farmers in commercially viable co-operative processing of farm produce.
- 3 Production co-operatives involving small groups of farmers in the joint ownership of machinery and other means of production so avoiding over-capitalisation and improving utilisation of equipment.

E Stabilisation

Recognising that tax penalties can arise from fluctuation of incomes, Labor supports primary producers' tax averaging and income equalisation deposits.

To achieve greater stability in farmers' incomes over a long term, Labor will—

- 1 Establish in conjunction with co-operating State Governments, a pilot regional income insurance scheme.
- 2 Assist low income farmers wishing to remain on their properties at retirement by offering annuity schemes.
- 3 Provide farm household support to relieve cases of temporary financial hardship.

- 4 Provide for flexible repayment of rural loans.
- 5 In co-operation with the States, ensure adequate compensation for victims of natural disaster.

F Rural Adjustment

Endorsing the concept of Rural Adjustment assistance as a means of improving the economic efficiency and viability of farm enterprises, and of promoting the mobility and productivity of resources employed in the rural sector.

Recognising the need for adequate reconstruction, counselling services, retraining and on-farm retirement schemes, and other welfare benefits deemed necessary to assist in the adjustment of farm families unable to remain viable in agriculture.

A Labor Government will—

- 1 Continue to support the provisions of the present Rural Adjustment Scheme.
- 2 Initiate greater liaison and consultation with the States to monitor the impact of the Scheme with a view to achieving greater uniformity in its administration.
- 3 Examine in close consultation with the States, the establishment of Regional Redevelopment Authorities in rural communities where sudden and prolonged changes in the pattern of demand for a product on which the regional economy depends, causes severe economic and social dislocation and creates special adjustment needs.

G Research and Extension

Recognising that dynamic extension is necessary to ensure that information, research results and financial management advice are more readily available to farmers so that they are translated into improved viability and that the competitive advantage of Australian agriculture is improved.

A Labor Government will—

- 1 On request from grower organisation in smaller agricultural industries, provide research staff from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to assist with marketing, production and structural adjustment planning.
- 2 In co-operation with the States, extend rural research beyond the technology of production to community based research including the economics of marketing and production and the social consequences of change.
- 3 Support research into improving the energy efficiency of agriculture, particularly in meeting the projected shortages of fossil fuels, including the provision of research facilities and incentives to produce ethanol, methane and other fuels.

H Community Services

Labor will seek to overcome the restricted access by country people to community services by establishing a Rural Communities Grants Commission inter alia to—

- 1 Maximise the position of the Flying Doctor Service, an Ambulance Service and similar mobile medical, dental and educational services.
- 2 Provide compensation for travelling and accommodation expenses incurred in obtaining these services.
- 3 Use the established machinery of government to advise rural people of the community services available.
- 4 Provide adequate funds for the ABC to meet its obligation to provide quality radio and television services for Australians living in rural areas.
- 5 Ensure that people living in remote areas share the benefits of new technology in communication facilities.

I Resource Use and Conservation

A Labor Government will—

- 1 Give urgent attention to the need to maintain viable agricultural production in the land surrounding our major cities.
- 2 Encourage the maintenance and restoration of expendable resources of soil, water, air and forests.
- 3 Encourage the establishment of State Rural Land Use Commissions to review and report on the conservation, reclamation and use of all rural land.
- 4 Establish in conjunction with the States and citizens concerned, a Committee of Inquiry to ascertain the facts about salinity in rural land and to recommend remedial action.

J Forests

A Labor Government will—

- 1 Determine the environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of harvesting our existing forest resources and developing new forests.
- 2 Encourage the development of forestry as a farm undertaking for production of timber for processing.
- 3 Develop policies which will provide a balance between economic, ecological, and recreational need for our forest resources.

K Fisheries

Recognising that Australian fisheries are a common property resource to be managed for the maximum benefit of the people of Australia,

a Labor Government will—

- 1 Take steps to ensure that the maximum sustainable annual harvest is linked to the number of economically viable commercial fishing units, consistent with the needs of recreational fishing and the marine environment.
- 2 Where fishery resources have been over-exploited, increase industry returns by schemes such as the buying back of boats in over-fished areas.
- 3 Establish management policies of fisheries resources with the States.
- 4 In co-operation with State authorities, investigate ways of—
 - a simplifying the license procedures for fishermen;
 - b providing extension and training for industry personnel;
 - c investigating the economics of fishing operations and the sociological effects of measures taken to regulate fisheries exploitation;
 - d developing marketing and fish processing techniques; and
 - e collecting research data on the biology, population dynamics and ecology of the various commercially important fish species.
- 5 Without prejudice to the existing fishing industry, establish Australian and joint international projects to exploit the 200-mile economic zone for control over fisheries.

L Quarantine

Labor will review existing quarantine procedures in the light of current medical, veterinary and horticultural knowledge, and bear in mind the representations of primary industry organisations.

Resolutions

1979 National Conference

1. RURAL COMMUNITIES

That the Platform Review Committee produce a document dealing with all aspects of ALP policy relevant to rural communities.

2. COMMITTEE ON RURAL INDUSTRY

That this Conference is concerned because relations between inter-related sections of the rural production and export industry are presently making for confrontation rather than co-operation. Accordingly, we recommend that the ALP complement its rural policy passed at the 1977 National Conference, by setting up a committee to—

- a ascertain the reasons why, in particular the smaller farmers and people in provincial cities and towns are not generally voting for the ALP; and
- b find some means to organise co-operation between all sections of the industry — between producers and all the industry's dependent and supportive sections; for example, carters, various processors, shearers, pickers, storemen, wharf labourers — in order to promote the prosperity of the total industry, including consideration of the Australian consumer.

3. ALP SUPPORT IN RURAL AUSTRALIA

That a conference of representatives of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, all State Parliamentary Labor Parties together with representatives of the National and State Rural (Primary Industry) Policy Committees be held at the earliest opportunity to make an all out effort to revert the evaporation of ALP support in rural Australia and that an ALP Shadow "Australian Agricultural Council" be set up to continually review ALP Rural Policies.

4. LOAN FUNDS FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS

That a Labor Government improve the provision of and access to, loan funds for primary producers, by transferring the functions of the Primary Industry Bank to the Commonwealth Development Bank with a view to reducing administrative costs and extending long-term lending.

5. WOOL MARKETING PLAN

The ALP affirms its support for a wool marketing plan which includes—

- a the principles of a statutory single selling authority having monopoly powers of exporting Australian wool subject to approval by a grower's referendum;
- b the principle of grower contributions funding a revolving Market Support Fund which will maintain the export price of wool at the highest level; and
- c the principle of a revolving Market Support Fund be an objective in its own right.

6 WORLD FOOD BANK

That on the election of a Federal Labor Government an investigation be held into the feasibility of saving agricultural surpluses and pooling for the purposes of a world food bank.

7 AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD

Conference supports the continued control of domestic wheat sales by the Australian Wheat Board.

8 SASKATCHEWAN LAND BANK SCHEME

In order to assist the entry of young people into farming the ALP will conduct a feasibility study into the establishment of a Saskatchewan Land Bank type scheme, subject to Australian conditions, with a view to early implementation by a National Labor Government.

9 AUSTRALIAN MEAT AND LIVESTOCK CORPORATION

That wider use should be made by the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation of its statutory trading and export powers.

19 Science and Technology

A Introduction

Labor—

Recognises the vital role played by science and technology in advanced industrial societies, including Australia. It declares its support for the introduction of new technology, but affirms its fundamental commitment to its introduction in a socially responsible way for the benefit of society as a whole. It is aware of the dimensions and potential impact of the current technological developments.

Believes that an adequate science and technology policy for Australia should have regard to the whole range of activity, from the basic discipline of science through applied and service science and technology. It recognises that in a pluralistic society, with a mixed economy, there are varying demands on science from different interests and sectors of the community who may see different purposes in science and technology. These demands come from—

- a the Australian community who are showing increasing concern as to the future implications of the scientific/technological revolution;
- b commercial and industrial sources in development of new products and processes and in production problems;
- c governments, for information pertinent to administration and decision making, for services, and for work intended for general benefit, for example energy research;
- d particular interest groups in society, especially in areas such as consumer affairs, trade unions, and environmental science;
- e non-commercial sources, such as needs for medical science and human nutrition research and services; and
- f the need of sciences as intellectual disciplines;

Regards all of these demands as worthy of being met, as resources permit, and recognises that different detailed policies and forms of organisation will in general, be appropriate to different areas to satisfy different demands.

Also recognises that science and scientific development may have profound social consequences, and therefore believes that there should be machinery for adequate monitoring of social effects, as well as for analysis and reporting to the Australian community on social effects of all existing and projected development.

Is especially aware of the need to develop and adapt new technologies, to keep our economy up-to-date and to provide

employment for our people. It therefore believes that a science and technology policy should be closely integrated with industrial and economic policy. Accordingly, a Labor Government will—

B Generally

- 1 Maintain the independence of the CSIRO.
- 2 Expand the functions of Australian Science and Technology Council (ASTEC) to include advising on the social aspects of science.
- 3 Ensure that science and technology development is environmentally sound and does not promote wasteful use of resources.
- 4 Strengthen Australia's participation in international scientific activities towards promoting scientific co-operation with other countries, in particular, Australia's near neighbours.
- 5 Introduce measures, such as superannuation portability, to enable mobility of scientists, engineers and technologists and others in academic, industrial, government, and defence sectors of science.
- 6 Establish a Council of Government Science Establishments, comprising all government bodies engaged in science and technology to assist in co-ordinating their activities and to advise government on organisational and related problems in the scientific area; in addition—
 - a ensure that major science and technology deliberations by Government authorities are open to public scrutiny before any final decision is made.

C Commerce and Industry Policy

- 1 In consultation with industry, trade unions and financial and scientific bodies, develop measures to promote in Australia new technology industries capable of competing on a world scale.
- 2 Protect Australian science-based industries against those take-overs which would inhibit Australian scientific initiatives.
- 3 Investigate the extent to which restrictive franchises based on foreign ownership of technology being used in Australia penalises Australian development, and develop measures to remove such penalties.
- 4 Institute extension and problem solving services to manufacturing and tertiary industry, where possible utilising skills and expertise already available in government and education bodies.
- 5 Consequent on the establishment of resources rights to 200 miles offshore, invite existing marine industries and other

appropriate interests to join with it in establishing a consortium to survey, access and commercially develop our marine and seabed resources on a scale of operation and technological level comparable to leading nations in this field.

D Scientific Services and International Research

- 1 Recognise the need for such work to be clearly directed towards international objectives laid down by the government after consultation with all interested bodies.
- 2 Recognise the value of encouraging individual initiative and professional independence in the science and technology professions and favour working arrangements and management systems within government bodies which promote such values.
- 3 Recognise the value of comprehensive data about our physical environment in decision making and promote such activity in all fields.

E Research and Data Gathering in Non-Commercial Areas

- 1 Recognise the need for greater scientific knowledge and data availability in areas pursued by significant community movements, such as consumer affairs and environmental areas, and ensure that government science bodies respond to these needs.
- 2 Recognise the continuing importance of research and expansion in medical and other aspects of human welfare and strongly support such research.

F Science as a Discipline

- 1 Encourage the highest possible standards of excellence in pure and applied science in educational and other bodies.
- 2 Recognise that because of our geographical position (including our Antarctic responsibilities) and certain unique environmental features, we should emphasise work in areas relating to these features.
- 3 Encourage interchange of scientific personnel between Australia and overseas by post-doctoral and other fellowships in the recognition that science is an international activity.

Resolutions

1979 National Conference

CSIRO

This Conference resolves that a Labor Government will—

- a maintain the independence of CSIRO;
- b encourage CSIRO to assist the development of its own research discoveries;
- c ensure that licenses to CSIRO patents are not offered or granted without ministerial approval; and
- d review the CSIRO charter to allow it to participate more fully in short term prospects.

20 Social Security

A Introduction

The social security policy aims at the elimination of poverty through the provision of a guaranteed minimum income for all residents and the alleviation of existing poverty through a system of services and benefits for those in need.

Labor believes that—

- 1 Every person has the right to a basic level of economic security and access to services necessary for the personal and social development of the individual.
- 2 The recipients of welfare programmes—
 - a are entitled to dignity, privacy and respect;
 - b should be encouraged to participate in the development of welfare programme; and
 - c must have the right of appeal against administrative decisions; and
- 3 An equitable social security system should provide a programme of income security, and personal and community services to overcome poverty and inequality, and should incorporate information and research facilities necessary for the development and evaluation of social security programmes.

B Income Support

Labor's aim is to ensure that all Australians have a disposable income sufficient to provide a standard of living adequate for their health and well being. This involves employment, a fair taxation system, and the provision of social security payments to those in need.

In pursuit of this Labor will—

- 1 Provide for social security payments according to need for disadvantaged persons — such as the aged, invalid, handicapped, sick, unemployed and lone parents — sufficient to maintain an acceptable standard of living.
- 2 Eliminate the seven-day waiting period for unemployment benefits and the six-week waiting period for school leavers seeking work.
- 3 Review the family allowance programme in order to direct resources to low income families and provide for an annual review of the level of payment to maintain their value.
- 4 Update the income tests for social security payments and fringe benefits in line with inflation.
- 5 Legislate for the automatic updating, at least twice-yearly, of social security payments by reference to a social security

index to compensate for inflation, and to ensure social security recipients have the benefit of national productivity gains.

- 6 Introduce a no-fault national compensation scheme with universal coverage for injury and work-related illness for all workers, regardless of sex or marital status.
- 7 Introduce a national superannuation scheme, which does not discriminate on the grounds of sex or marital status, providing flat rate benefits for all retired persons, with further provision for the purchase of additional benefits through Government regulated or sponsored schemes. Ensure that all persons have access to portable superannuation.
- 8 Co-ordinate income tests and fringe benefits at all levels of Government to maintain the disposable income of all social security recipients.
- 9 Establish a flexible system of emergency relief for those in need, funded as an Australian Government responsibility and distributed by, and with the co-operation of, all levels of government, and voluntary agencies.

C Individual Rights and Privacy

Labor would protect the rights and privacy of the individual under the social security system by—

- 1 Making public, all regulations and guidelines produced for the distribution of benefits and services.
- 2 Providing to applicants for social security benefits a statutory entitlement to social security payments with immediate payments to those who are prima facie entitled, pending speedy review of eligibility.
- 3 Providing to applicants for, and recipients of, social security benefits a statutory right of appeal to a tribunal within an Administrative Appeals Tribunal on all questions relating to payments.
- 4 Providing protection for the confidentiality of social security beneficiaries, with stringent penalties for abuse.

D Personal and Community Services

Labor will, with the co-operation and assistance of State and Local Governments and voluntary organisations, act to provide readily accessible services appropriate to the needs of the community, including—

- 1 Administration and information services, where appropriate, in multi-purpose offices.
- 2 Rehabilitation, accommodation and vocational services for the aged, handicapped and homeless, with reduced emphasis on institutional care and increased emphasis on domiciliary care.

- 3 Services and facilities for ethnic groups with specialised staff.
- 4 Support for voluntary welfare agencies.
- 5 Support for self-help groups encouraging community and user participation.
- 6 Assist and actively encourage participation at a local level in social welfare planning and delivery in order to develop a decentralised system of services appropriate to various communities.

E Children

A Labor Government will continue to develop a comprehensive early childhood services programme—

- 1 Administered by a Children's Services Bureau responsible for the supervision of children's services throughout Australia on a needs and priorities basis, and for the co-ordination of research on child care matters.
- 2 With the aims of—
 - a promoting the emotional, physical, intellectual and social development of children;
 - b providing community support for mothers to participate more fully in society;
 - c offering a variety of choice of services to parents and children when parents are at work, when parents or children are ill, or when families have other special needs;
 - d fostering the most economic use of existing facilities for children;
 - e encouraging maximum parent initiative, involvement and responsibility in establishing and running services, with full information services and educational opportunities to be provided for parents;
 - f developing integrated services to meet the diversity of child care needs of families in a geographic area, including work/community-based care; and
 - g ensuring that no child requiring detention shall be imprisoned with a much older prisoner or isolated from balanced, informed and caring adults and that legal representation shall be available at all times to the child.
- 3 Providing services for the care—
 - a and education of pre-school aged children within an integrated framework incorporating full-day care, sessional pre-schooling, playgroups, emergency care, occasional care, and other forms of care in accordance with need; and
 - b of school-aged children including before- and after-school care, sick day care and school holiday care, effected in a variety of ways, in accordance with demand.

21 Transport

A Introduction

Labor believes that—

Transport is essential for the production of materials for industry, for the exchange of goods, for imports and exports, for journeys to work, school and shops and for holiday and other pleasure trips.

Public transport is a social service like education or health, whose greatest value lies in making life more convenient, diversified and satisfying.

Public transport remains the only means of transport for many people, particularly women, the aged, the young, the poor and the handicapped. It is also a vital alternative for the single-car family.

Transport systems and services should not be solely determined by market forces, but should be designed to maximise social benefit to the community.

Accordingly, Labor's transport policy—

- 1 Is designed to develop safe, co-ordinated, efficient, low-cost travel, compatible with the way people wish to live in organised communities, and to reduce the isolation of non-urban areas, and provide ready access to goods and services.
- 2 Has major objectives including—
 - a social objective — provision of adequate passenger services to provide reasonable opportunity for mobility to all members of the community, with the emphasis on moving people rather than vehicles and minimising accidents;
 - b economic objective — provision of access to goods, services and raw materials;
 - c environmental objective — to minimise environmental damage, including the introduction of adequate standards to protect air quality and human health; and
 - d resource objective — to maximise and encourage efficient use of scarce resources of energy, time and space.
- 3 Is based on Labor's commitment to ensure that strategic evaluation of transport priorities will be undertaken nationally and regionally, so as to take account of distribution of goods, land use, resource allocation, and the social and economic impact upon the lives of our nation's people.

Therefore, a Labor Government will—

B Organisation, Funding and Charges

- 1 Establish an Interstate Commission, as set out under Sections 101-104 of the Constitution, to co-ordinate interstate transport including rail, road, air, water, and pipelines as provided by the Constitution or transferred to it by a State.

- 2 Make grants to the States to enable them to operate, co-ordinate, expand and upgrade public transport systems.
- 3 Continue the funding and construction of new railways to unserved regions where required and where justified. Upgrade and maintain, to a national standard, designated routes of national importance including the completion of the programme of standardisation of inter-capital links.
- 4 Co-operate with the States to phase out fixed, standing motoring charges and replace them with charges related to usage, and freight carriage.

C Public Participation

- 1 Promote public discussion and participation in the provision of, and improvements to, transport services.

D Research and Planning

- 1 Encourage experimentation with alternative forms of transport which will contribute to reduction of space requirements, pollution, loss of life and energy wastage.
- 2 Assist the States by providing grants for transport planning and research.
- 3 Examine the effects of the existing airlines policy on passenger and freight carriage.
- 4 Ensure that air travel as a principal mode of long distance public passenger transport is accessible to as wide a range of the community as possible.

E Shipping

- 1 Expand the operations of the Australian Shipping Commission to—
 - a ensure an equitable share of our exports and imports are carried in Australian owned and manned vessels; and
 - b build, purchase or charter sufficient vessels to achieve this objective.
- 2 Ensure that all coastal trade be carried in Australian owned and manned vessels.
- 3 Ensure that shipbuilding facilities are upgraded to provide an effective shipbuilding and ship repair industry and in that regard also construct and maintain adequate dry docking facilities.

F Highways, Roads and Facilities

- 1 Build and/or operate any railways, ports, air routes, shipping services or pipelines as provided by the Constitution or transferred to it by a State.
- 2 Build and maintain National highways using existing design staffs and construction authorities.

- 3 Make grants to the States for the building and maintaining of other roads.

G Transport Standards and Safety

- 1 Establish a National Transport Safety Board to investigate—
 - a all accidents involving civil aircraft; and
 - b all accidents involving Australian Government transport enterprises.
- 2 Encourage the States through the Australian Transport Advisory Council to achieve standard road laws throughout Australia.
- 3 Establish a Roads Safety and Standards Authority to promote research into road safety and effective road safety campaigns.
- 4 Promote the 'no-fault' principle of compensation for victims of motor accidents.

H International Conventions

- 1 Promote the conclusion, ratification and application of transport conventions under the auspices of the UN and its specialised agencies.

22 Urban and Regional Development

A Introduction

Labor recognises that the quality of life for the people who live in major cities and non-metropolitan regions is significantly affected by the nature of industrial and commercial development in those areas.

The lack of co-ordinated planning of industrial and commercial development in the past, and the lack of serious government attention to the consequences, has meant that there are now accumulated and interrelated problems that remain unresolved. These problems while largely caused by narrow economic thinking by private firms and statutory authorities have been left for resolution at public expense.

But the present changes taking place in the Australian and the world economies are bringing about problems of a different order, that are deep-seated and long-term. There is a declining availability of jobs. There is increasing cost and wasteful usage of limited non-renewable energy resources. At the same time an increasing pollution of the environment. There is increasing inequality in the distribution of wealth, and a consequent deterioration in the adequacy of community services.

The causes of these changes are deeply rooted in the movement towards concentration of international capital. Control of Australian production is becoming vested in fewer but larger firms, increasingly foreign owned. The result is growing capital intensity of production leading to higher energy consumption and greater use of labour displacing and environmentally insensitive technology. These firms make their investment and location decisions with little concern for the impact on Australian society.

The increasing concentration of capital is leading, on the one hand, to over-centralisation of central business districts in major city centres and, on the other hand, to the deterioration of living conditions and the environment. These trends have led to heightened demands on existing urban and region facilities that are already deteriorating and are in need of rehabilitation.

At the same time demands for entirely new services are being generated as capital requires increasing subsidisation of private investment, including the provision of public utilities to support industrial development, and programmes of housing relocation assistance.

The decline in the birthrate, reduction in the migration programme, the ethnic diversification of the population, the ageing of the population, increased participation of women in the workforce, environmental degradation and increasing inequality in the distribution of wealth are all major demographic and social changes which have occurred at the same time as the profound changes in the economy.

Current and emerging problems require that local, state and national governments work together and co-ordinate their programmes to intervene in new ways toward the objectives of providing security of employment, equitable management of energy resources, planning of production and distribution, protection of the environment and expansion of community services.

A Labor Government will—

- 1 Within the context of national economic planning, work closely with the States in developing co-operative arrangements for devising urban and regional policies to tackle the problems of the 1980s.
- 2 Use its power over flows of public sector and private investments to ensure full employment is achieved, that all Australians are adequately housed, that energy resources are used efficiently and the environment is protected from exploitation inconsistent with the long-term well-being of the Australian people.
- 3 Use its powers in co-operation with the States to locate jobs and functions so that future development can be co-ordinated with changing populations trends and national settlement patterns, for example it will use industry assistance policy to create jobs in areas of high unemployment.
- 4 Use its powers over taxation policy to eliminate the incentive for speculative dealings in land and property.
- 5 Encourage citizen participation in decision making in all matters related to the development and administration of cities, regions, rural communities and the management of the environment.

B National Urban Strategy

- 1 In co-operation with the States and Local Government, develop and implement a national urban and regional development strategy consistent with the projections for Australia's population growth, both as a result of natural increase and immigration, as the basis of its long-term policies in this major area. Labor will have regard to the need for urban, rural and regional economic planning and long-term resource planning. Labor recognises that energy conservation should be a key objective of this strategy.

- 2 Require the development and monitoring of an Urban and Regional Budget Programme to co-ordinate the resources allocated for investment in urban and regional services by the Australian, State and Local Governments.
- 3 Negotiate with, advise and assist State and Local Government in the preparation and implementation of urban and regional plans which will take full account of the plans' social implications and provide for the extended participation of local citizens.
- 4 Establish a Department of Urban and Regional Affairs, concerned with the impact of private and government decisions on the living conditions of the Australian people, and having responsibility for implementing Labor's Urban and Regional policies.
Functions of the Department would include—
 - a urban resource allocation and investment in fixed social capital, with particular regard to land use, housing, transport, recreation and the urban environment, developed in co-operation with the respective department, and the States;
 - b promoting research into urban questions; and
 - c promoting effective liaison between the Australian, State, Territory and Local Governments.
- 5 To ensure balanced urban development, particularly in the central business districts of major cities, co-ordinate property investment and development programmes by both the Australian Government and its instrumentalities and by foreign companies and insurance companies.
- 6 Initiate new policies for selective urban consolidation using existing public facilities, where the social fabric of an area is not destroyed.
- 7 In consultation with the trade union movement and other affected parties, support the creation of major car-free pedestrian zones, particularly in the central business districts of major cities to benefit pedestrians and relieve air pollution.
- 8 Act to encourage and where necessary, to require the private and public sectors to provide in major commercial developments such as office blocks, community, recreational, and sporting facilities for use by office workers and, where appropriate the general public.

C Urban and Public Transport

- 1 Ensure that investment in public transport is given priority and that all investment in land transport is consistent with—
 - a the urban and regional development strategy developed in co-operation with the respective departments and the States;
 - b a policy of energy conservation and use of renewable energy resources; and

- c a recognition of existing major air and noise pollution problems resulting from over-dependence on road-based private transport.
- 2 Encourage State Governments to focus urban development away from the central business districts of our large cities, to select sub-metropolitan locations on the public transport system, to improve employment, social and cultural opportunities and to spread the transport load over the system and stop wasteful expenditure on inner city freeways and inner city car parks.
- 3 Encourage the use of bicycles for both transport and recreational purposes.

D Housing

Statement of Principles

The Labor Party believes that every Australian resident has the right to adequate and appropriate accommodation at a price within his or her means. Conversely, residential development should be directed towards a variety of housing types commensurate with the differing needs of people of different ages, family circumstances and cultural values.

Housing accommodation should provide the occupants with security of tenure, reasonable autonomy of action and privacy. This should apply equally to owner-occupied houses and tenanted housing whether publicly or privately owned.

Labor's housing policy is designed to ensure that assistance is provided to families on low and moderate incomes in achieving home ownership and meeting costs of rental accommodation. It also maximises the degree of choice offered to the individual regarding types of housing, tenure and location.

It is the national government's responsibility to regulate the flow of funds for, and to maintain employment opportunities in the building industry.

Labor believes that the achievement of these goals and the development of an effective national housing policy requires the closest consultation between the Australian, State, Territory and Local Governments, unions and the housing industry.

National Housing Policy

- 1 A Labor Government will develop a national housing policy within the framework of national economic and population planning and aimed specifically at—

- a improvements in research for forecasting of future housing needs;
- b assessment and monitoring of housing conditions throughout Australia;
- c co-ordination of existing Commonwealth funding for housing programmes, including the raising of existing Commonwealth supplementary benefits for housing to realistic levels;
- d encouraging the participation of institutions, local government, regional and community groups in the identification of housing problems and in the planning of comprehensive housing policies; and
- e preparation of a Green Paper on housing problems which outlines government goals and objectives.

Co-operation with State Territory and Local Governments

- 2 The National Housing Policy will involve the Federal Government in joint undertakings at the state, regional and local level with a view to—
 - a encouraging local initiatives in the position of housing through local government, regional groups, cost-rent associations and housing co-operatives;
 - b promoting the removal of inconsistencies in standards, requirements and regulations which impose higher costs; and
 - c assisting in the development of experimental and low energy housing projects using alternative planning and engineering standards.

Housing Initiatives

- 3 A Labor Government will undertake a number of new initiatives to assist and promote access to home ownership and provide an adequate supply of low cost rental accommodation, through—
 - a the Australian Housing Corporation re-establishing the Australian Housing Corporation which will—
 - i secure the cash flows necessary to maintain production and sale of housing, and to assist home ownership, consistent with need, in desirable environments;
 - ii raise funds on the market and buy and sell mortgages on terms laid down by the Australian Government, to provide greater stability to the home finance market;
 - iii introduce new mortgage schemes, such as deferred

- 1 Intervene in the land market to ensure that the supply of land is adequate to meet demand and that land for urban development passes through public ownership as it is converted from rural to urban use.
- 2 Co-ordinate the activities of all Land Commissions and Urban Land Councils in accordance with the principles of a National Urban Strategy.
- 3 Establish strict safeguards to prevent the waste of public funds in land purchases, and require that rural land destined for urban development be purchased at rural prices.
- 4 Seek to ensure through bi-lateral agreements with the States, that in disposing of land—
 - a in growth centres or land held by Land Commissions or Urban Land Councils, residential land be freehold subject to improvement conditions and reservation of development rights;
 - b commercial and industrial land be held on a leasehold basis, subject to an annual land rent with periodic review; and
 - c government land be held on a leasehold basis, subject to a premium lease payment.

F Regionalism

An Australian Labor Government will, in co-operation with the States—

- 1 Pursue a policy of bringing about economic, social and cultural equality between people in the different regions of Australia. To this end it will ensure that employment opportunities and access to social, commercial, and cultural services are shared fairly and without creating environmental problems.
- 2 Encourage decentralisation to, and the growth in, major rural cities where natural growth occurs, and where development is in accordance with the National Urban Strategy and the following principles—
 - a the full co-operation and agreement of State and Territory Governments will be obtained before choosing rural cities for accelerated growth; and
 - b priority to be given to selected rural cities under existing Australian and State Government programmes aimed at improving standards, amenities and communications.
- 3 Support regional authorities to enable them to create jobs by strengthening the regional economy. In particular, a Labor Government will assist authorities to enter into partnership arrangements with private enterprise to attract new economic activity and to support local initiatives.
- 4 To assist decentralisation conduct an inquiry into telecommunication charging, including uniform standard call charg-

ing within regions and uniform moderate charges for telephone connections.

- 5 Work to decentralise national and state government services to sub-metropolitan centres, major rural cities and regions, in order to provide more equitable access to employment opportunities, services and the facilities provided by Governments, and also to reduce pressures on over-centralised capital cities, provided that—
 - a the relevant unions and the employees affected are required to be consulted before any transfer is made;
 - b employees who may, after a full process of consultation, be required to transfer their place of living and employment in order to retain an appointed position, be given adequate notice so that all necessary personal and family arrangements can be made; and
 - c employees of national and state organisations affected by decentralisation on transfer programmes, who for personal or family reasons do not wish to change their place of living and employment, be given reasonable alternative employment opportunities where practical in their existing work centre.
- 6 Encourage community development through support for local and regional groups concerned with social development, including the making of expert assistance available to individuals and groups affected by planning proposals.

G Local Government

Labor is committed to the recognition of local government—as a genuine recognised partner in the Australian Government system, with rights and responsibilities.

In state constitutions, as autonomous, with its own bona fide electorate, and with its own revenue sharing responsibilities. Which ought not be suspended by another level of government without formal rules and proper enquiries, hearings and appeals.

As a general (multi-) purpose personal level of government which ought to have a role which is not strictly limited, and given permission only to undertake a limited range of activities. It should be positively encouraged to include selected enterprises and use its initiative.

And to its representation on the Council for Inter-Governmental Relations. It should be actively involved in inter-governmental consultations and agreements, especially those affecting it financially.

And will seek the support of local government for the inclusion of a local government representative on the Loan Council and for power of the Australian Government to borrow on its behalf.

Labor recognises three fundamentals about our Federal System of government, namely that—

- 1 Within a three-level government system there is a need to balance the functions and finances of each level to ensure the adequate development of services and natural and human resources.
- 2 Between the three levels there ought to be consultation, co-operation and joint evaluation of public programmes.
- 3 The three levels of government need to be involved in setting priorities and broad targets for the standards and quality of community services and conditions that their combined efforts are aimed at producing.

Consensus on Local Government Responsibilities

- 4 Labor believes that local government should have its authority and responsibilities more clearly defined recognising the need for diversity between States. A Labor Government will therefore promote and participate in a discussion and inquiry into the desirable range of functions, rating and revenue raising, principles of organisation and operation, and the principles of inter-government relations, for modern local government. This inquiry would be undertaken with states, local government and community organisations.

Revenue Sharing and Local Government

- 5 Labor is committed to sharing with local government at least 2% of the federal personal income tax of the previous year. In the event of the real value of federal net personal income tax collections ever falling between years, a Labor Government will maintain at least the real value level of the previous year, i.e., the provision of general (untied) revenue assistance to local councils by a proportion of the revenue raised by the national government.

Principles of Division of the Revenue Sharing Grants

- 6 The major factors to be considered in reaching recommendations on revenue grant levels between all local government authorities will include the following—
 - a a capitation grant comprising 30% of all revenue sharing funds will be given to all councils;
 - b a second part, a 'needs' or 'topping up' component will be added to the capitation grant based on the following criteria, which would comprise the other 70% of revenue sharing grants—

- i assessment of disabilities in the revenue base or capacities of the area;
- ii assessment of expenditure, disabilities, such as the characteristics of the council area's demography, topography, geography and geology; and
- iii assessment of the relative needs of the area's population and the level of services available to them (especially those provided by the Council).

The Australian Grants Commission

- 7 Will be responsible for calling for applications for general revenue grants. It will report publicly on its advice to the Australian Government.
- 8 The Grants Commission panels examining Councils' needs in each State will include State and local government nominees. Provision will be made to receive public submissions.

Local Government and Special Purpose Grants

- 9 In addition to its commitment to general revenue assistance by revenue sharing, Labor is committed to assisting local government by special purpose grants to be allocated on a needs basis.
- 10 These grants will absorb a number of existing special purpose grants, into a series of broadly based grants with greater discretion at the local level.
- 11 These special purpose grants will give priority to regional and community development activities, and programmes to alleviate the growing unemployment problem.
- 12 In addition, special assistance will be given to assist co-operative activities between local government bodies on a regional basis.

H The National Estate

- 1 Through the Australian Heritage Commission ensure the annual funding of projects to preserve, protect and enhance the National Estate, using as the guides for financial assistance the register of the National Estate compiled by the Australian Heritage Commission, and registers compiled by any equivalent State bodies.
- 2 Through the Australian Heritage Commission, the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, and related State organisations, seek to achieve as quickly as possible a system of well-managed national parks, reserves and wilderness areas which protect adequate and representative examples of all Australia's diverse environment and the genetic material they contain.

I The Northern Territory

- 1 Establish a specialist division of government for the development of Northern Australia comprising experts in the various fields of social, physical and biological sciences. The division shall act as a planning and co-ordinating authority functioning in co-operation with the States and the Northern Territory through a representative committee in Northern Australia.
- 2 Where appropriate decentralise those functions of Australian Government Departments and instrumentalities relevant to the administration and development of Northern Australia.
- 3 Grant Statehood to the Northern Territory only after a plebiscite of Northern Territory citizens eligible to vote at a Northern Territory Legislative Assembly election, after the fullest consultation with all sections of the community, and after securing the rights of Aborigines.
- 4 Given the energy crisis and recognising the defence value and greater efficiency of rail over other forms of land transport, carry out a cost-benefit examination of the feasibility of extending the Tarcoola-Alice Springs standard gauge railway line to Darwin.
- 5 Examine Australian Government tax policies as they affect the cost of living in Northern Australia.
- 6 Recognising the potential of the Tourist Industry to Northern Australia, upgrade the airport at Darwin to international standard.
- 7 Accelerate the completion date of the Yulara Tourist Village at Ayres Rock.

Resolutions

1979 National Conference

1 THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

This Conference, recognises that—

Australian Government policy is a principal determinant of the level of economic activity, especially in the building and construction industry and the personal and social well-being of people in the ACT.

Expenditure cuts and lowered staff ceilings have contributed to the high and rising unemployment, personal hardship, and reduced public service effectiveness.

The system of local government in the ACT is inadequate in representing the needs and democratic rights of the people of the ACT.

Accordingly, this Conference recommends that—

- 1 An inquiry be held into the organisation of government in the ACT to investigate and recommend alternatives.
- 2 Arbitrary staff ceilings be lifted and replaced by realistic public sector manpower planning.
- 3 Greater stability in funding of capital works projects through the Australian Government budget in the ACT be guaranteed to assist industry and commerce.
- 4 The role of Canberra be promoted as a national capital and regional centre, with more diversified employment opportunities.

2 HOUSING LOANS INSURANCE CORPORATION

- 1 This conference condemns the proposed sale by the Fraser Government of the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation, recognising that HLIC—
 - a has been a highly successful initiative of the Labor Government;
 - b was established, in part, to assist the less well-off home buyers to obtain finance for housing; and
 - c is consistent with Labor's principles and objectives.
- 2 Recognising that the low to middle income earners are now and will continue to face increasing difficulties in obtaining access to housing loan insurance market.

23 Veterans' Affairs

A Labor Government will—

- 1 Extend liberal treatment to all ex-service personnel disabled as a result of war service, and to their dependents.
- 2 Review any changes made to the Repatriation system in recent times which reduce long-standing benefits in the traditional Australian Repatriation system and restore the system where the Repatriation Review Tribunal can hear and make determinations upon new evidence submitted to it.
- 3 Sympathetically administer repatriation in relation to the valuation, terms, and conditions of occupancy of farm properties and homes provided for return service personnel and their dependents, and to provide that the waiting term for a defence service home loan is reduced to a maximum of 12 months.
- 4 Provide for at least half yearly indexation of all Repatriation benefit payments.
- 5 Exclude war pensions, including the general and special rate, and family allowances, from consideration as income for the payment of Service pensions or corresponding Social Service pensions: to be implemented within three years with substantial relief being granted in the first year.
- 6 Grant to allied ex-service personnel who fought with Allied forces during the Second World war entitlement to pension and treatment rights on the same basis as British ex-service personnel and extend fringe benefits (such as medical and hospital treatment and transport and telephone concessions) to both British and allied ex-service personnel.
- 7 Ensure that a full and free system of Legal Aid will be available for repatriation applicants and appellants, for their families and for the organisations which represent them.

Rules and Standing Orders

(As amended by the 1979 National Conference in Adelaide)

A Rules

1 Name

The name of the Party shall be "The Australian Labor Party."

2 Objective

The Democratic Socialisation of Industry, Production, Distribution and Exchange — to the extent necessary to eliminate exploitation and other anti-social features in those fields — in accordance with the Principles of Action, Methods and Progressive Reforms set out in the Party Platform from time to time.

3 Head Office

The Head Office of the Party shall be known as the National Secretariat and shall be established in John Curtin House, Barton, ACT.

4 Composition

The Party shall consist of State Branches, the Northern Territory Branch and the Australian Capital Territory Branch (hereinafter referred to as State Branches).

5 Structure of Party Organisation

a the Party shall function upon the following basis—

- i National Conference;
- ii National Executive;
- iii Federal Parliamentary Labor Party;
- iv National Labor Women's Organisation;
- v Australian Young Labor;

b the National Conference shall be the supreme governing authority of the Party and its decisions shall be binding upon every member and every section of the Party;

c the National Executive shall be the chief administrative authority of the Party, subject only to National Conference;

d the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party shall have authority in properly constituted Caucus meetings to make decisions directed towards establishing the collective attitude of the Parliamentary Party to any question or matter in the Federal Parliament, subject to—

- i at all times taking such action which may be possible to implement the Party's Platform and Conference decisions;

- ii on questions or matters which are not subject to National Platform or Conference or Executive decisions, the majority decision of Caucus being binding upon all members in the Parliament;
 - iii no attitude being expressed which is contrary to the provisions of the Party Platform or any other decision of National Conference or National Executive, and
 - e the National Labor Women's Organisation, the Australian Capital Territory Branch, and Australian Young Labor shall function in accordance with the rules that may be approved from time to time by the National Executive and subject to its control and jurisdiction.
- 6 Convening National Conference
- a
 - i each State Branch except the Northern Territory Branch and the Australian Capital Territory Branch shall be entitled to send seven (7) delegates to the National Conference, one of whom shall be the State Parliamentary Leader or his nominee as approved by the State Executive.
 - ii the Northern Territory Branch shall be entitled to send two (2) delegates to the National Conference, one of whom shall be the Northern Territory Parliamentary Leader;
 - iii the Australian Capital Territory Branch shall be entitled to send one (1) delegate to National Conference;
 - iv Australian Young Labor shall be entitled to send one (1) delegate to National Conference;
 - v the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party and the Leader and Deputy Leader in the Senate shall be seated at National Conference as full delegates;
 - b National Conferences shall be held in alternate years, the venue and time to be determined by the National Executive which shall have regard to the claims of all States;
 - c special National Conferences may be held for specially stated purposes, and shall be called in the manner prescribed by these Rules;
 - d
 - i the National President need not be a delegate to National Conference but where the President is not a delegate he shall have the full rights of a delegate except that of voting;
 - ii the National Secretary shall not be a delegate to National Conference but shall have the full rights of a delegate except that of voting;
 - e the National Secretary, after receiving instructions from the convening authority, shall observe the following procedure for the purpose of establishing Conference agenda—

- i give the following bodies three months' notice to send items for inclusion on the agenda: State Branches, National Labor Women's Organisation, Australian Young Labor, and those Federal Trade Unions whose State Branches of the unions are affiliated with the Party in each State; and
- ii send to State Branches and other bodies represented at National Conference, Agenda and any other documents related thereto at least one month before Conference meets.

7 National Executive

- a The National Executive of the Party, which shall be the chief administrative authority, subject only to National Conference, shall be constituted in the following manner—
 - i two delegates from each State Branch except in the case of the Northern Territory Branch and the Australian Capital Territory Branch which shall each have one delegate. Each State shall determine the method of selection of its representatives and may take any action to secure full representation at all meetings of the Executive by proxy delegates when original delegates are unable to attend;
 - ii the President, unless he is otherwise elected a delegate with full rights of a delegate, except that of voting;
 - iii the National Secretary shall not be a delegate but shall have the full rights of a delegate except that of voting;
 - iv the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party and the Leader and Deputy Leader in the Senate.

Officers of the Party

- b i the National Executive shall elect the following officers: President; Senior Vice-President; two Junior Vice-Presidents; who shall be members of the National Executive in accordance with Rule 7a;

National Secretary

- ii the President and Vice-Presidents shall be elected at the first meeting commencing after May 31st in each year, and shall hold office until the first meeting commencing after May 31st in the following year, but if any of them ceases to hold office before the latter meeting the National Executive shall elect a successor at the first meeting after he ceases to hold office;
- iii the National Secretary shall be the permanent officer of the National Executive, subject to good conduct,

satisfactory performances of duty and adherence to the policy and objects of the party. His services shall be terminable by the National Executive or by the National Secretary by one month's notice by either party;

Powers and duties of the National Executive

- c decisions of the National Executive shall be binding upon all sections and members of the ALP subject only to appeal to National Conference. The National Executive shall—
 - i be the administrative authority carrying out the decisions of National Conference, and in the interpretation of any Conference decision, the National Platform and the Constitution and Rules of the Party, and the direction of Federal Members;
 - ii convene National Conferences in accordance with these Rules;
 - iii convene Special National Conferences when requested by a majority of State Branches for special purpose(s) providing that such purpose(s) is/are National in character. The National Executive may also, on its own motion, convene such Conferences;
 - iv meet at least four times a year, and at such other times as the Executive may determine, for the purpose of considering and determining all matters that are properly before it. Subject to these Rules, only State Branches, Australian Young Labor, the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, the National Labor Women's Organisation and those Federal Trade Unions whose State Branches are affiliated to the Party in each State, shall be competent to send matters to the National Executive. The Executive shall determine the time and place of all meetings.
 - v Initiate discussions of any question of a National nature if a majority of the Executive so decides. Special Meetings of the National Executive may be called at the request of half of the credentialled delegates;
 - vi
 - a the National Executive shall be competent to hear and decide appeals from any affiliated organisation or individual member against the decision of any State Conference or State Executive alleged to be inconsistent with any National decision or matter;
 - b where any member or affiliated organisation desires to appeal to the National Executive on a question which does not involve any National decision or matter, leave to appeal must first be obtained from the State Branch concerned;

- c the National Executive shall hear and decide an appeal from any person seeking to be a candidate for Federal Elections against a decision of any State Conference or State Executive affecting his pre-selection or endorsement, providing that leave to appeal is granted by the National Executive. Such leave to appeal is not to be granted except by a decision in which 10 members vote affirmatively;
- vii have plenary powers to deal with and decide any matters which, in the opinion of an absolute majority of members of the Executive, affect the general welfare of the Labor Movement, provided that no decision of National Conference shall be abrogated under this rule; and
- viii in the case of any State Executive, State Branch or section of the ALP acting or having acted in a manner deemed by the National Executive to be contrary to the National Constitution, Platform and Policy of the Party as interpreted by the National Executive, the National Executive may over-rule such State Executive, State Branch or section and/or may declare that same no longer exists, and shall set up in place thereof organisation competent to carry out the National Constitution, Platform and Policy of the ALP. Pending the hearing of any appeal, the decision of the National Executive shall operate. In the event of the National Executive taking any action under this sub-clause, the National Executive shall be the body to approve any selection which otherwise would have been made by the body affected by the National Executive decision.

8 Duties of President

The President, when available, shall attend and preside over all meetings of the National Executive and conduct such meetings on the basis of the Standing Orders as applicable to National Conference. The President may carry out any other duties that the Executive may deem fit.

9 Duties of Vice-President

The Vice-Presidents, in order of seniority, shall take the Chair in the absence of the President, and shall perform any other duties that may be referred to them by the Executive.

10 Finance

- a That to meet the general expenses of the party, each State Branch shall pay each year, to the National Executive through the National Secretary, a sum representing a rate per thousand adult members, and a rate per thousand pen-

- sioner and student/junior members. The total due shall be paid in four quarterly instalments on 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October. The National Executive shall have the power to fix sustentation fees;
- b in the event of a State Branch being six months in arrears in its contributions to the Party, the National Executive may decide that such Branch shall not be entitled to be represented at any meeting of the National Executive or National Conference, or be consulted on any question that may be subject to a ballot of State Branches, until such arrears are paid;
 - c State Branches represented at National Conference shall be financially responsible for their delegations;
 - d that the National Executive shall determine and administer an equalisation pool for travel costs associated with National Executive meetings;
 - e the National Executive shall meet the expenses of the National President attending National Conference and the expenses of any officers associated with any duty being carried out on behalf of the National Executive;
 - f each State Executive shall pay to the National Executive not later than December 31st of each year the further sum of 0.21c per member for international affiliations or activities associated therewith; and
 - g the National Executive shall, from time to time, determine the manner in which the Party's accounts shall be operated including the signatories to the Party's bank accounts.

11 Platform Review Committee

The Officers of the National Executive, together with the FPLP, shall act as a Platform Review Committee and further act as a consultative body for the purpose of removing misunderstandings provided that no action shall be taken to disturb the constitutional functions of each body.

12 Federal Parliamentary Labor Party.

- a no State Executive may direct members of the FPLP in regard to matters affecting the National Platform or policy or upon legislation before the Parliament or any matters the subject to consideration by the FPLP;
- b the power of discretion, advice and/or guidance is reserved for the National Conference and, between Conferences, the National Executive; and
- c no State Branch shall approach the FPLP except through the National Secretary who will report to the National Executive on any action taken.

B National Conference Standing Orders

Chairman of Conference

- 1 The National President shall preside over Conference with the power of speech but no vote. In his absence the Senior Officer present shall preside. If no Officers are present a Chairman shall be appointed by and from Conference. Such appointment shall not disturb the full voting powers of the delegate so appointed.

Credentials

- 2 Each body represented at National Conference or National Executive shall lodge with the National Secretary the names and addresses of its delegates as early as practicable before the meeting. These names and addresses shall be sent by the National Secretary to all members of the National Executive and other bodies represented at the National Conference as soon as possible.

Any body or delegate may challenge the credentials of any delegate by lodging with the National Secretary the grounds of objection in writing within 14 days of being notified of the nominations of that delegate.

The grounds of the objection shall be conveyed to the delegate challenged and to the body nominating him by the quickest possible means. The National Executive shall hear and determine the challenge. An appeal shall lie to the National Conference. Pending the outcome of any such appeal, the decision of the National Executive shall stand.

Session Times

- 3 Conference shall meet each day from—
9.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., and 2.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.,
subject to Conference at any time, determining on motion or amendment without debate, and without rescission of any previous decision as to meeting times, to meet at any other times.

Order of Business

- 4 The order of business shall be as follows—
a reading and confirmation of minutes;
b reports;
c correspondence;
d agenda items; and
subject to Conference, at any time on motion without debate, determining some other order of business.
- 5 No discussion shall be allowed except on motion or amendment duly proposed and seconded.

- 6 Any member desiring to propose a motion or amendment, or to discuss any matter under consideration, must rise and address the Chair. No member shall address the Conference unless called by the Chairman.
- 7 All questions shall be determined in the following manner—
 - a the mover of the motion shall have seven minutes to present argument in support of his motion and five minutes to reply.
 - b the seconder of such motion, and all other speakers, shall be limited to five minutes;
 - c the movers and seconders of motions and amendments must exercise the right to speak at the time of moving and not subsequently subject to the right of reply by the mover of the motion.
 - d Conference on motion without debate may extend the time of any speaker; such extension of time shall not exceed five minutes. Conference may agree to further extensions on the same basis.
 - e the Chairman shall call attention to the time of all speakers one minute before such time expires. Motions for extensions may be made when the Chairman so calls, but not later;
 - f after the motion has been moved and seconded, and no speaker rises to oppose or move an amendment, the Chairman shall proceed to put such motion to a vote of Conference;
 - g All votes of Conference shall be subject to the following procedure—
 - i the Chairman shall call upon those who support the question to say 'Aye,' and those who are opposed to say 'No';
 - ii he shall then declare the question carried or lost.
 - h any delegate not satisfied with the Chairman's decision may, by standing in his place, call for a show of hands. The Chairman shall proceed to determine the question by calling upon those who support the motion to raise their right hands, and those opposed to act similarly. The Chairman shall appoint two tellers to take the count and they shall be representative of the opposing viewpoints. When the tellers are agreed upon their count the Chairman shall declare the result by quoting the figures for and against;
 - i any delegate not satisfied with the count as declared by the Chairman may, by standing in his place, call for a division. If supported by not less than seven other delegates standing in their places, the Chairman shall proceed to conduct a division. This shall be done by the Chairman calling upon all delegates who support the question to

leave their places and stand on his right. He shall then call upon those who oppose, to stand on his left. He shall appoint two tellers representative of the opposing viewpoints to count the delegates so standing. When the tellers are agreed upon their count the Chairman shall declare the result by quoting the figures for and against.

- j the names of all delegates participating in a division shall be recorded in the minutes;
- k when any question voted upon by Conference results in equal numbers for and against, the Chairman shall declare such a question lost; and
- l any motion or amendment affecting the Pledge, Platform or Constitution of the Party shall be declared lost if less than a majority of delegates credentialled to the Conference vote for it.

Amendments

- 8 a at any time during debate on any motion it shall be competent for any delegate to move an amendment. All amendments must be seconded. Motions may be amended by adding words, by deleting words, or by deleting words and inserting others in their place, providing that the effect of any proposed amendment is not to establish a direct negative to the question contained in the motion; and
 - b any number of amendments may be proposed and discussed simultaneously with the original motion, notwithstanding Standing Order 13. At the close of debate amendments shall be put in the order they have been moved;
- 9 no member shall speak more than once to any question before the Chair, unless by way of personal explanation or with the consent of the Conference. Such consent shall not be given unless by a majority of those present.
- 10 At any time during debate on any question it shall be competent for the Chairman to accept a motion "that the question be adjourned," provided at least two speakers have spoken for and against. A member having spoken to the question shall not be competent so to move. Such motions shall be immediately put without debate, provided that in the event of Conference agreeing "that the question be now put" the mover of the original motion shall have the right of reply.
- 11 On Conference agreeing "that the question be now put" it shall mean not only the question contained in the motion, but in any and all amendments.
- 12 No question shall be debated for a longer period than one and a half hours, subject to Conference agreeing on motion

or amendment put without debate to extend such time. A two-thirds majority of those present shall be required to approve any such extension.

- 13 Motions directed towards the re-consideration of any decision reached by Conference shall fail unless carried by a three-fourths majority of the delegates credentialled to Conference.
- 14 Not more than two delegates in succession shall speak for or against any question.
- 15 All questions involving an interpretation of policy on any section of the Platform or the direction of members of the Parliament in accordance with the principles and methods of the Party, shall be subject to decision by Conference on the basis of these Standing Orders and not by ruling of the President.
- 16 Questions other than those contained on the Agenda shall not be discussed unless agreed to by two-thirds of the delegates credentialled to Conference, and no delegate shall canvass the subject matter of the proposed new business when seeking Conference approval for discussion of same.
- 17 Rulings given by the Chairman on any question shall be subject to motion calling upon Conference to disagree with any ruling. In the event of such motion, the mover shall be permitted not more than five minutes to support the motion and the Chairman shall be permitted not more than five minutes to defend his ruling. There shall be no other speakers. The Vice-President or any other delegate appointed by Conference shall occupy the Chair during the currency of such motion.

Resolutions

1979 National Conference

1 COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

Conference resolves—

That the recommendation of the National Executive that the Report and Recommendations of the National Committee of Inquiry be listed for debate at the 1981 National Conference.

2 ABORTION LAW REFORM

This Conference reaffirms the 1973 decision on Abortion Law Reform—

All Labor parliamentary members, federal and state, are free to take such legislative initiative or opposition as they think fit on the question of law reform, and no Caucus or other party unit is able to give any direction or endeavour to bind members in any way on this issue.

3 SOCIALIST OBJECTIVE OF THE PARTY

That the National Executive be instructed to institute a programme of seminars, debates and discussions on the Socialist Objective of the Party and its contemporary interpretation. Submissions to the National Conference for revision to the current Objective, interpretation of Democratic Socialisation and Principles of Action should be distributed in conjunction with this debate.

That one or a number of discussion papers on the objective of the ALP be prepared for the consideration of Branches over the interval between National Conferences.

The National Executive shall be responsible for drafting recommendations to the next National Conference on these matters.

4 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

That Conference believes that the procedures of the Party at state and National level provide adequate opportunity for people who are dissatisfied to seek redress of grievance and calls upon all members of the Party in respect of matters in dispute to refrain from making comment outside the Party.

The Constitution and Rules of the National Labor Women's Organisation

1 Composition

State or Territory Labor Women's Organisations or Branch bodies of women as approved by the respective State or Territory Executives of the Party (hereinafter referred to as State organisations).

2 Objectives

- a To promote the organisation and co-ordinate the work of women in the ALP;
- b to work for the elimination of discrimination against women;
- c to present the views of women members of the Party to the National Executive, National Conference and National Campaign Committee;
- d to present publicly the views of Labor women on National issues;
- e to educate women politically and industrially; and
- f to support and advocate the Constitution and Platform of the ALP as set out by the National and State Conferences of the ALP.

3 Executive Body

- a The Executive body shall comprise a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary-Treasurer, who shall be known as the Officers;
- b the President and Secretary-Treasurer shall come from the same State and hold office for one two-year term;
- c these positions shall be rotated from State to State each term; and
- d the Executive shall be elected by the National Labor Women's Conference. Any member of a State organisation which supports the Conference who has not less than one year's membership shall be eligible to nominate.

4 Executive Meetings.

- a The President shall convene special meetings when requested by a majority of the Executive to do so;
- b special meetings shall be held if three State Organisations so petition the President; and
- c a majority of the Executive shall constitute a quorum.

Powers of the Executive

- 5 The Executive shall be empowered to deal with—
 - a matters referred to it by:
 - i State Labor Women's organisations;
 - ii the National Executive of the ALP;
 - iii National Conference;
 - iv National Campaign Committee;
 - v Labor Women's National Conference;
 - b any matter of an urgent nature, providing that the urgency of any such matter shall be determined by a majority of the Executive, either assembled in meeting or by telegraphic or postal vote;
 - c the organisation of National Labor Women's Conferences in accordance with the requirements of these Rules;
 - d arrangements for representation on other conferences which may be convened by other organisations having similar objects to the National Labor Women's Organisation subject to approval being granted by the ALP National Executive. The methods to determine such representation shall be as follows—

where time permits, nominations shall be invited from the State organisations, to be received by a returning officer appointed by the Executive. A ballot, if necessary, to be conducted by the returning officer at the next National Labor Women's Conference. Where time does not permit, the Executive shall decide the selection. Any member of a State organisation with not less than one (1) year's membership shall be eligible for selection; and
 - e arrangements for representation on national and international bodies on the principles and methods laid down in d hereof.

National Conference

- 6 a A National Conference of Labor Women shall be held every two years;
- b the time and place of the Conference shall be determined by the Executive;
- c State organisations shall be notified by the Secretary-Treasurer of the time and place of such Conference not later than three months prior to the opening of the Conference;

- d the convening notice shall also call for the items to be placed upon the Conference agenda, and shall be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer not later than one month prior to the opening of the Conference;
- e conference items recieved after the time specified in (d) hereof shall be placed in the category of "Late Items" and Conference shall determine whether such items will be considered;
- f the National Labor Women's Conference shall comprise of four delegates from each State and two delegates from each territory elected by the State organisation. A State may send a lesser number but shall be empowered to exercise a full voting strength of the State;
- g the Executive shall be empowered to convene a National Conference when the Women's organisation as defined in 1, if the majority of States have indicated their support for the convening of that Conference;
- h special Conferences shall be called if a majority of State organisations petition the President for this purpose;
- 7 any member of the National Executive of the ALP shall have the right to be present at any Conference of the National Labor Women's Organisation in the capacity of an observer;
- 8 the Secretary of the National Executive shall be advised of the election of Officers of the National Labor Women's Organisation; and
- 9 ALP National Conference Standing Orders shall apply to all meetings.

Finance

- 10 a For the purpose of financing the National Labor Women's Organisation each State organisation shall contribute not less than twenty dollars (\$20) per annum; and
- b the Officers authorised to operate the Banking Account of the National Labor Women's Organisation shall be the President, the Secretary and two trustees. Funds may be drawn over the signatures of the Secretary and one of the remaining three Officers appointed.

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