

Concession Speech: John Hewson, Opposition Leader (LP)

Intercontinental Hotel, Sydney, 12:00am, 14 March, 1993

“While the result looks close, with 15 to 16 seats still in doubt, we have probably lost the election.

I had wanted to restore integrity and honesty to government. In simple terms, we wanted to provide a vision for the people of Australia to secure a position for our children and grandchildren.

We had a great campaign, probably our most professional campaign ever. I have no doubt we absolutely did our best.

I believe we did it the way it should be done and I hop the politics of fear doesn't become a permanent feature of the Australian way of life.

I am proud of our honesty. I am proud of our openness. I am proud of our integrity and proud we raised tough issues and fought the hard fight.

We could have done it the easy way and sat back and waited for the other side to fall over. I think it's important that all politicians face the reality and stand up and fight for future generations.

We really could not have done it any better.

I want to thank the many people who voted for us. They shared our dreams and I want to guarantee them that we are going to fight on. Honesty and integrity will win in the end. It has to for our children and grandchildren.

We look forward to sustaining the fight.”

Source: Compiled from the Sunday Telegraph, 14 March 1993, p. 1-3 and the Sun Herald 14 March 1993, p. 14-15.