

Victory Speech: Andrew Fisher, Opposition Leader (ALP)

Maryborough: April 14, 1910

“I desire to thank the people of Australia for the vote recorded on Wednesday in favour of the Labour party.

When the Deakin-Cook Fusion was formed to defeat the Labour Government, of which I was leader, I thought a dissolution should immediately follow the defeat in order to consult the people on the merits of the respective policies, as well as the claim practically made by the Fusionists of their right to act in Parliament in a manner which stultified their platform pledges to their constituents.

Our policy is national.

We are anxious to safeguard every interest in the State and Commonwealth.

We felt that any minimising of the powers of the Federal Parliament would be a serious matter for Australian progress.

The people seem to be more Australian than their representatives in Parliament, and I am happy to think that the Labour party in some slight way has given them an opportunity to express their national feelings.

The task set the new Government will be found to be not a light one, but it must be faced with determination and courage.

All the States have participated in that victory over provincialism, and the whole people are to be congratulated on the decision which proclaims to the world that we are one people with one destiny.”

Source: Compiled from original documents and The Sydney Morning Herald, 15/4/1910, page 7.