

Victory Speech: Joseph Lyons, Opposition Leader (United Australia Party)

Devonport: December 20, 1931

“Naturally I am gratified with the result.

It is a very definite expression of confidence in the UAP policy, and a severe condemnation of the policy of the Government and also of the Lang plan.

The electors by their verdict averted a financial and economic disaster.

The result proves that the Australian people as a whole are as sound at heart as those of Britain.

I appealed to the people to tune in with Britain, and they have done so.

I recognise that the task that lies ahead is a very difficult one, but it will be tackled with courage and determination.

I have pledged my party to govern sympathetically in the interests of the whole people, and to inflict no hardship upon any one section to the advantage of any other.

That undertaking will be solemnly adhered to.

Our aim will be to do everything possible to restore confidence, in order that industry may begin again to employ those who today are out of work.

I am personally very gratified to know that the policy that I advocated when a member of the Government, and on which I was compelled to leave the Cabinet, and for which I have stood all through, has now been endorsed by the nation.

It is particularly pleasing to me to know that my own electorate and my native State have so emphatically expressed approval of my policy and action.”

Source: Compiled from the Sydney Morning Herald, 21/12/1931, page 9 and The Age.