

Victory speech: Joseph Lyons, Prime Minister (UAP)

Devonport (Tasmania) October 24th 1937

“I take this vote as an endorsement of the Government’s policy of co-operation with Great Britain in the interests of world peace.

If only peace can be ensured, there can be scarcely any limit to the prosperity of the Australian people. We will strive to strengthen the bonds that bind us to the rest of the Empire, for it is in our interest to maintain those bonds unweakened. We believe that the greatest hope for Australia and the Empire lies in the strengthening of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

The result of the election, is a remarkable vote of confidence in the Federal Government. The figures show that the Government will be returned to office for three more years. I wish to express my gratification. The result is outstanding in the history of Australia.

Myself and my Ministers will continue to do our utmost for the Australian people. The vote is an indication that the Ministry has legislated in the interest of every section of the Commonwealth. All those who have supported the Government might rest assured that its legislation in future will be non-sectional, and those who have voted against the Government might know that they will share in any benefits that would accrue from the Government’s legislation.

The Government has a big programme ahead – a programme of progressive legislation. Progressiveness is in the forefront of the Government’s policy. An instance of this is the plan of national insurance.

Conscription has no place in our policy, It will have no place in it. We will endeavour to discharge the heavy responsibility that has again been laid upon us in a manner worthy of the confidence that has been placed in us.

I am grateful to the electors, and I thank them for what they have done.”

Source: Compiled from The Sydney Morning Herald, October 25th 1937, page 13 and original documents.