

Victory Speech: Ben Chifley, Prime Minister (ALP)

Bathurst: September 29, 1946

“It appears beyond doubt that the Government will be returned.

Some seats, of course, are undetermined, and the final result in these will not be known until the preferences have been allocated.

I congratulate my colleagues in all States on their fine performance, and I offer all Labour men and women workers everywhere my thanks for their splendid work, and to the State branches for their magnificent organization.

The vote obtained by new Labour candidates, especially in Tasmania, is praiseworthy, and reflects hard work.

The people’s verdict is a clear mandate to the Government to carry on with the policy it has laid down.

I give my pledge to the people of Australia that this policy will be carried through with justice to all.

It was upon this pledge that the Government faced the electors.

It was a simple, honest declaration, and I am glad it has been accepted by the people.”

Source: Compiled from the Argus, Canberra Times, Sydney Morning Herald, 30/9/1946, page 1, The Age.