

## **Victory Speech: Paul Keating, Prime Minister (ALP)**

***Bankstown Sports Club, NSW, 11.24 pm, March 13 1993***

(Crowd chanting “We want Paul”). “You’ve got him. You’ve got me. You’ve got me. Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

Well, this is the sweetest victory of all (cheers and applause). This is a victory for the true believers (cheers and applause) the people who, in difficult times, have kept the faith (applause). And to the Australian people, through hard times, it makes their act of faith all that much greater (cheers and applause).

It’ll be a long time before an opposition party tries to divide this country again (cheers and applause). It’ll be a long time before somebody tries to put one group of Australians over here and another group over there (cheers and applause). The public, the public of Australia, are too decent, too conscientious and they’re too interested in their country to wear those sorts of things (cheers and applause).

This, I think, has very much been a victory of Australian values, because it was Australian values on the line and the Liberal party wanted to change Australia from the country it’s become — a cooperative, decent, nice place to live where people have regard for one another (cheers and applause).

And can I just say that this has been a hard campaign and I can assure every member of the public out there when they think we don’t know in the political system how tough it is, I can assure you, I can tell you how it tough it was in those last few weeks (cheers and applause, “We love you Paul”).

But, can I say to you I wanted to win again, to be there in the 1990s to see Australia prosper as it will (cheers and applause).

The thing is, the thing is, I said to the Australian people: “We’ve turned the corner.” Can I say now after the election, let me repeat it, we have turned the corner. The growth is coming through, we will see ourselves as a sophisticated trading country in Asia and we’ve got to do it in a way where everybody has got a part of it, where everyone... (cheers and applause).

There’s always, there’s always cause for concern but never pessimism and, Australia, we are for the first time in our history located in the region of the fastest growth in the world and we’ve been set up now, we are set up now as we’ve never been set up before to be in it, to exploit it, to be part of it. It offers tremendous opportunities for Australia and now we have to do it, but we have to do it compassionately.

I give an assurance to the people that this victory won’t go to the heads of the government, of the Labor party. We’ll take it seriously, we’ll take it thankfully and we’ll do a great deal with it (cheers and applause).

The people of Australia have taken us on trust and we'll return that trust and we'll care about those people out there, particularly the unemployed — we want to get them back to work, and if we can't get them back to work immediately as sure as hell we're going to look after them (cheers and applause). We're not gonna leave them in the lurch, and we are gonna put our hand out and pull them up behind us.

And we're gonna move along, this country is going to move along together. We have such enormous opportunities. This world recession is now starting to dissipate, we've made the break out of it, America's starting to turn, it won't be that long before the Japanese economy starts to turn and hopefully we'll be away and running in the 90s in a low inflationary period of prosperity. And we've never... (Crowd "No GST!"). Yes, and NO GST! (Cheers and applause)

I can assure you the government will now be redoubling its efforts to be as good as government as you hope and expect we can be, to be as conscientious with this mandate as we possibly can be, to give it our every effort, our every shot, to see that we recover quickly and we get going and we put this recessionary period behind us; and we get this country of opportunity off and running, but keeping the opportunity there for everyone. Keeping those great... (cheers and applause). Keeping those great nostrums of access and equity. Getting people into the game. The policies of inclusion. The policies of one nation. And that's what it's got to be about.

So, can I say again, this is a tremendous victory. It's a tremendous victory for all those who've got imagination and faith. The people who believe in things, who are not going to let good beliefs be put asunder for essentially miserable ideas to divide the place up. I mean, I think the Australian people have always had such remarkable sense to spot the value and to cut their way through it.

Now, part of this victory is ours, part of it is them spotting what they think were the danger in the Liberal party's policies. What I hope is that at the next election the victory is 100% due to the good government of the Labor party.

Now, I'd like to start thanking some people, and the first person I'd like to start with is my wife Anita who helped me right through the campaign (cheers and applause). Thank you.

And can I also say, can I give an extra special note of thanks for the women of Australia, who voted for us believing in the policies of this government. I want to pay a particular thanks also... I... (crowd shouting)... good on ya mate.

I want to pay a particular thanks to the architects of this victory, my personal staff. Don Russell, Mark Ryan, Don Watson, my press secretaries and the rest.

But most particularly to those people in the Labor Party who never lose faith, never lose heart and are there at the polling booths to work and to fight for good things (cheers and applause). Thank you.

The people, the people who never give up, who always keep on believing who are always there no matter how heavy the travails may be. To you I say thank you very every much indeed, thank you again. And thank you for believing.

But could I most particularly and again finally, thank the Australian people whose faith and decency and commitment to what's fair and what's reasonable and what is decent in this country, without those conscientious judgements this victory could not have been consummated and put together. Thank you.

And could I just conclude on this note, to say thank you, we appreciate it, we won't let you down. Thank you."

Source: Transcribed from audio at Australian Politics Online, The Australian March 15 1993 and the Canberra Times March 15 1993.