

# DOING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR AUSTRALIA

The Howard  
Government



## PRODUCTIVE AND PROSPEROUS AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIES

Australian industries have been both a driver and a beneficiary of a stronger economy:

- Since 1996, 2.2 million more Australians have jobs and average wages have increased 21.5% above inflation. With significant tax relief, this means more income being spent and invested, adding to the profitability of Australian industries.
- New private business investment has increased to \$159.5 billion in 2006/07, up from \$63.7 billion in 1995/96.
- Exports have increased from \$99 billion in 1995/96 to \$216 billion in 2005/06.
- Far from being in decline, Australia's manufacturing sector is achieving record export, investment, R&D and profit results, with manufactured exports reaching a record \$81.3 billion in 2006 and capital investment in manufacturing rising 3.3% from 1996 to 2006.

The Howard Government has helped industry by boosting apprentice numbers to around 400,000 (from 154,800 in 1996). Furthermore, reforms to workplace relations have helped deliver the lowest level of disputes (working days lost per 1,000 employees) since 1913.

Innovation has been encouraged through the 175% Premium Tax Concession (and tax offset for smaller businesses and start ups) to encourage

spending on R&D and through the largest innovation package in Australian history – Backing Australia's Ability.

The Howard Government's new \$1.4 billion Industry Statement is a plan for the next decade, with practical initiatives to boost productivity, innovation and integration:

- Australian Industry Productivity Centres to help businesses expand.
- The Global Opportunities program, targeting major international projects.
- An expansion of the 175% Premium R&D Tax Concession to encourage multinational companies to conduct research in Australia.

In sectors adjusting to lower tariffs, the Howard Government's long-term industry packages are helping build lasting competitive advantages. The Automotive Competitiveness and Investment Scheme will provide more than \$7 billion between 2000 and 2015 to strengthen our car industry. In 1995, with a tariff of 27.5%, Australia exported 23,940 vehicles. In 2006, with a tariff of 10%, we exported around 130,000. Textile, clothing and footwear industries have been backed with packages worth over \$1.4 billion.

The Howard Government will continue to build on its proven record of delivering a stronger economy and practical assistance to Australian industries.



For more information about our achievements and plans for the future

