

## DISSENT

### ON THE REPORT OF THE INQUIRY INTO THE PROPOSAL TO DRAIN AND RESTORE LAKE PEDDER

I wish to record my dissent from the conclusion of the report.

I truly believe from evidence presented to the Committee that the Federal Government should begin to take the steps that are necessary to restore Lake Pedder.

A large part of the evidence given to the Committee was on economic costs, and this I believe is the only argument of the opponents to the proposal to restore Lake Pedder. What price is beauty? What price is a symbol that can inspire people forever? What price for the wonder of looking at a scene unspoilt by human intervention? What price to walk, and listen to the quiet? What price for restoration of the soul? What price to admire the Creator's work? These prices were not computed in our report. Surely they outweigh the other costs.

The inundation of Lake Pedder was the start of the environmental movement in Australia, and for many around the world, it was the beginning.

The restoration of Lake Pedder would show how far we have progressed in our consideration of the environment. It would also be a symbol of humankind coming to terms with our world. To restore to nature such an area would convince others that we in Australia are serious about the environment, and would inspire all. In doing so we would leave a gift to our children and generations to come, the gift of the wonders of nature.

These words in the preface of the book *The World of Olegas Truchanas* by Max Angus sum up my feelings:

*For beauty is the most unforgettable thing in the world, and  
though of it a few perish, and the myriads die unknowing and  
uncaring, beneath it the nations of men move as beneath their  
pilgrim star. Therefore he who adds to the beauty  
of the world is of the sons of God.*

FIONA MACLEOD in  
*Deirdre and the Sons of Usna*

ROBERT CHYNOWETH, MP  
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