

C-SPAN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL DEBATE TO AIR SUNDAY ON C-SPAN

Voters Go to Polls March 24 to Elect New Federal Parliament

Washington, D.C., March 15 -- C-SPAN, the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network, will air a debate between Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Liberal Party Leader Andrew Peacock at 10 pm ET Sunday, March 18.

The two political leaders are battling for control of Australia's Federal Parliament. Australia's 10.4 million voters will go to the polls March 24 to decide whether Mr. Hawke's Labor Party or Mr. Peacock's Liberal Party will govern Australia for a maximum three-year term.

The hour-long debate, billed as "The Great Debate" by Australian journalists, was taped Feb. 25 in Melbourne and televised live in Australia.

Mr. Hawke, 60, said his government has been a leader in environmental protection, abolition of chemical weapons and the search for a peaceful solution to conflict in Cambodia. Mr. Peacock, 51, said a new coalition government influenced by his party would restore economic prosperity to Australia.

Mr. Hawke announced the election February 16 after Governor-General Bill Hayden accepted his advice and dissolved Parliament.

Voting in Australia is compulsory for citizens over the age of 18.

C-SPAN is a non-profit cooperative of the cable television industry. It is available in 48.3 million U.S. households through home satellite dishes and cable systems and in more than 100 countries via satellite.

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