

THE HON. JEFF KENNETT



Mr Kennett was elected Leader of the Opposition in October 1982. Under his leadership, the Victorian Coalition was elected to Government on October 3, 1992, with two-to-one majorities in both Houses of Parliament - a position unparalleled in almost 140 years of responsible State Government in Victoria. In the Government's first term, Mr Kennett held the positions of Premier and Minister for Ethnic Affairs.

The Coalition was returned to office at the March 30, 1996, election with a net gain in representation across both Houses of Parliament.

Mr Kennett continued as Premier, as well as serving as Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for the Arts. He headed the Government's peak industry organisations - the Ministerial Industry Council, Premier's Business Round Table, Victorian Communications and Multimedia Task Force and Food Victoria, and chaired the Science, Engineering and Technology Task Force.

Under his Premiership, Victoria earned the reputation as Australia's most reformist government. They implemented extensive reforms of the Victorian public service, led Australia in privatisation of public authorities, reduced the State's indebtedness from \$33bn to \$5.5bn, reinvigorated its economy and reinstated confidence among the Victorian community. On April 22, 1998, Victoria regained its AAA credit rating from international ratings agency, Standard and Poor's.

In November 1999, Mr Kennett resigned from the Victorian Parliament after 23½ years service to pursue a corporate career.

Mr Kennett has travelled extensively internationally, and has a wide network of business and political contacts. He is currently the Chairman of:

- ◆ Beyondblue (A National Depression Initiative)
- ◆ Australian Seniors Finance
- ◆ Jumbuck Entertainment Limited
- ◆ Limited Open Windows Australia Limited
- ◆ Australian Commercial Catering

He is also Chairman of the not-for-profit community organisation Enterprise Ship Trust – which manages a replica of the ship that came to Australia during the first European settlement.

Mr Kennett was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in January 2005 for his work with the Victorian Parliament, social and economic initiatives, arts, sport and mental health.