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18th December, 1975

The Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, has agreed to the swearing in of a new Ministry on Monday, 22 December, and to the announcement today of the proposed administrative arrangements.

The new administrative machinery expresses the Government's determination to undertake sound and economical management of the nation's affairs.

Efficient and effective management of the Government's own administration is essential both for the achievement of prosperity and for genuine improvement in the position of the disadvantaged and in the standard of life of all Australians.

The Government is determined to ensure that its administration remains informed by practical considerations. Accordingly, community groups, business and labour must have access to Departments concerned with the practical, effective administration of policy.

These considerations are expressed in the reduction in the number of Departments, in the reallocation of functions between Departments, and in the appointment of an inner Cabinet.

The number of Ministers is reduced from twenty-seven to twenty-four. There will be a Cabinet of 12. The number of Departments is reduced from 28 at present, to 25.

An investigation will be made of all the functions presently carried out by Federal Departments and authorities. The investigation will be directed towards identifying those activities which either ought not to be carried out at all, which might be carried out more effectively and efficiently, or which might be more appropriately carried out by State or Local Government administrations.

A statement will be issued shortly concerning this investigation which begins immediately. It will draw upon the work of the Royal Commission on Australian Government Administration which is expected to submit its report by April 1976.

The new Ministry will be:-

<u>MINISTER</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>
* Hon. J.M. Fraser	Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet
* Rt. Hon. J.D. Anthony	National Resources. Overseas Trade.
* Hon. P.R. Lynch	Treasury.
* Hon. I. McC. Sinclair	Primary Industry.
* Sen. the Hon. R.G. Withers	Administrative Services.
* Sen. the Hon. I. Greenwood	Environment, Housing and Community Development.
* Sen. the Hon. R.C. Cotton	Industry and Commerce.
* Hon. A.A. Street	Employment and Industrial Relations.
* Hon. P.J. Nixon	Transport.
* Sen. the Hon. J.L. Carrick	Education.
	Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Federal Affairs.
* Hon. A.S. Peacock	Foreign Affairs.
* Hon. D.J. Killen	Defence.
Sen. the Hon. M.G.C. Guilfoyle	Social Security.
Mr R.J. Ellicott, Q.C.	Attorney-General's.
Mr J.W. Howard	Business and Consumer Affairs.
Hon. R.V. Garland	Postal and Telecommunications.
Hon. R.J.D. Hunt	Health.
Mr M.J.R. MacKellar	Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.
Mr A.E. Adermann	Northern Territory.
Mr R.I. Viner	Aboriginal Affairs.
Mr E.L. Robinson	Capital Territory.
Hon. J.E. McLeay	Construction.
Mr K.E. Newman	Repatriation.
Senator J.J. Webster	Science.

Senator Withers is to be Vice-President of the Executive Council.

* Member of Inner Cabinet

A Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Federal Affairs appointed for the first time in a Federal Ministry, reflects the importance which this Government attaches to restoring and promoting effective Federal/State relations.

The Chief Government Whip in the House of Representatives is Mr John Bouchier. The Government Whip in the Senate is Senator F.M. Chaney. The assistant Government Whip in the House of Representatives is Mr D.M. Cameron. The assistant Government Whip in the Senate is Senator K.J. Martin.

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