



## PRIME MINISTER

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### SECRETARY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PRODUCTIVITY

The Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, today announced that Cabinet had approved that Sir Alan Cooley, presently Chairman of the Public Service Board, will become the Secretary to the Department of Productivity.

The Governor General has been advised of the Cabinet approval and the appointment would be considered by the Executive Council as soon as possible.

In announcing Sir Alan's appointment, Mr. Fraser said that in 1976 Sir Alan's re-appointment as Chairman of the Public Service Board for a further period of five years was approved.

However, following the establishment of the new Department of Productivity, the Minister, Mr. Macphee, had approached Sir Alan to see if he would consider accepting the appointment as Permanent Head. 'I left the decision entirely to Sir Alan' said the Prime Minister. 'Whilst I regarded it as essential that we have a person of stature and capacity to take on the challenging task the Government has set the new Department of Productivity, I would not for a moment have contemplated Sir Alan's appointment to the position unless he himself was willing to accept it.'

Mr. Fraser added that Sir Alan had performed most ably and with great integrity since his appointment as Chairman of the Public Service Board on 1 November 1971, during a period of major reconstruction and significant policy changes in the management of the Public Service. 'His acceptance now of appointment to the Department of Productivity, after more than five years as Chairman, accorded with Sir Alan's own publicly expressed views on movement of senior officials, which were in harmony with comments I myself made in November 1975 in relation to Permanent Heads' the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Fraser added that his Government, when establishing the Department of Productivity, had indicated that there was a need to provide a technically-orientated body with responsibility in the area of increased industrial productivity. The Prime Minister said today that the Government sees the establishment of the Department of Productivity as being a most significant long-term measure. 'The improvement of our national productivity is crucial to improved living standards

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for every Australian. The Department of Productivity, under the leadership of its Minister and Secretary, will be looking beyond the day-to-day problems which catch the headlines and will seek to work with both employers and employees to integrate capital investment, new technology and various means of improving the job satisfaction, training and re-training of employees.'

'Whilst I am sorry to be losing the services of Sir Alan as Chairman of the Public Service Board, given the importance I attach to the new Department of Productivity, I welcome his decision to accept the appointment', the Prime Minister said. 'He will bring to the Department a depth of knowledge of technology, production techniques, industrial relations and management generally.'

It is intended that Sir Alan will take a period of recreation leave, which was planned earlier, before he takes up his new appointment.

The Prime Minister said that he has asked Sir Alan to submit to him a list of names of persons who should be considered for appointment as Chairman of the Public Service Board. The Prime Minister added that an announcement on succession would be made as soon as possible.

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