



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS

19 DECEMBER 1977

## THE NEW MINISTRY

The new Ministry will be sworn at Government House tomorrow morning. His Excellency the Governor-General has authorised me to announce details of the new Cabinet and Ministry.

The Ministers of State Act limits the total number of Ministers to 27. Two Ministers in the present Ministry, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Treasurer, each have responsibility for two major Departments. I propose to put to Parliament when it meets an amendment of that Act to permit the appointment of one additional Minister. If this is approved the full list and portfolios of Ministers will be as follows:

MINISTRY LIST

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| 1. Prime Minister   | The Rt. Hon. Malcolm Fraser, C.H.,<br>M.P. |
| 2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister<br>for Trade and Resources        | The Rt. Hon. J.D. Anthony, M.P.            |
| 3. Minister for Industry and Commerce                                   | The Rt. Hon. Phillip Lynch, M.P.           |
| 4. Minister for Primary Industry  | The Rt. Hon. Ian Sinclair, M.P.            |
| 5. Minister for Administrative Services                                 | Senator the Rt. Hon. R.G. Withers          |
| 6. Minister for Employment and Industrial<br>Relations                  | The Hon. A.A. Street, M.P.                 |
| 7. Minister for Transport   | The Hon. P.J. Nixon, M.P.                  |
| 8. Treasurer  | The Hon. John Howard, M.P.                 |
| 9. Minister for Education   | Senator the Hon. J.L. Carrick              |
| 10. Minister for Foreign Affairs  | The Hon. Andrew Peacock, M.P.              |
| 11. Minister for Defence  | The Hon. D.J. Killen, M.P.                 |
| 12. Minister for Social Security  | Senator the Hon. Margaret<br>Guilfoyle     |
| 13. Minister for Finance  | The Hon. Eric Robinson, M.P.               |
| 14. Minister for Aboriginal Affairs                                     | The Hon. Ian Viner, M.P.                   |
| 15. Minister for Health   | The Hon. Ralph J. Hunt, M.P.               |
| 16. Minister for Immigration and Ethnic<br>Affairs                      | The Hon. M.J.R. MacKellar, M.P.            |
| 17. Minister for the Northern Territory                                 | The Hon. Evan Adermann, M.P.               |
| 18. Minister for Construction   | The Hon. John McLeay, M.P.                 |
| 19. Minister for National Development                                   | The Hon. Kevin Newman, M.P.                |
| 20. Minister for Science  | Senator the Hon. J.J. Webster              |
| 21. Minister for Post and Telecommunications                            | The Hon. A.A. Staley, M.P.                 |
| 22. Attorney-General  | Senator the Hon. Peter Durack              |
| 23. Minister for Productivity   | The Hon. Ian Macphee, M.P.                 |
| 24. Minister for Business and Consumer<br>Affairs                       | The Hon. Wal Fife, M.P.                    |
| 25. Minister for Special Trade<br>Representations                       | The Hon. R.V. Garland, M.P.                |
| 26. Minister for Home Affairs and Minister<br>for the Capital Territory | The Hon. R.J. Ellicott, Q.C., M.P.         |
| 27. Minister for Environment, Housing and<br>Community Development      | The Hon. R.J. Groom, M.P.                  |
| 28. Minister for Veterans' Affairs                                      | Senator the Hon. G. Sheil                  |

The first 14 Ministers will comprise the Cabinet.

Pending amendment of the Ministers of State Act, Mr Garland will be sworn as Minister for Veterans' Affairs as well as Minister for Special Trade Representations. Senator Sheil will be sworn as an Executive Councillor tomorrow and will be sworn as Minister for Veterans' Affairs as soon as the Act is amended.

The appointment of Ministers to assist the Prime Minister or Ministers in major portfolios has worked very well and I propose to continue along these lines. The following Ministers will be appointed also as Ministers Assisting:

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister (including Public Service Matters)	Mr Viner
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Federal Affairs	Senator Carrick
Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Resources	Mr Garland
Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence	Mr McLeay
Minister Assisting the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations	Mr Groom
Minister Assisting the Minister for Primary Industry	Mr Adermann

The Minister for Primary Industry will be Leader of the House. Senator Withers will be Vice-President of the Executive Council and Leader of the Government in the Senate.

I have known for some time that Senator Cotton, the Minister for Industry and Commerce, has been

interested in serving his country in a different capacity. He does not wish to join the new Ministry and we will be sorry to lose his wide knowledge of industry and business, in Cabinet and in Government. I have asked him to be Consul-General in New York for a two-year period and in that capacity to develop further the strong Australian contacts with United States business interests. He will report to me on a wide range of matters affecting our Australian interests. It is planned that he will take up his new responsibilities towards the middle of next year.

Mr Lynch will be sworn as Minister for Industry and Commerce. He has asked to be moved from the arduous position as Treasurer and to take this leading role in the important development of industry policy. The Government recognises the pressing need to co-ordinate its industry policy, embracing the areas controlled by the Ministers for BACA and Productivity. I have asked Mr Lynch to undertake an overriding responsibility in this area. He will co-ordinate particularly policy developments within the three Departments concerned.

It will be seen from the list of portfolios that I am proposing to make changes in the structure of the Ministry. The Deputy Prime Ministership itself is becoming a heavier burden and the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anthony, is carrying a heavier load of Cabinet work. Mr Anthony has indicated that he feels

the time has come for him to hold only one portfolio instead of the two - Overseas Trade and National Resources - at present. Mr Anthony accordingly will be appointed as Minister for Trade and Resources, the opportunity being taken to draw together in the one Department those elements particularly relevant to our international trade in commodities. The Department of Trade and Resources will be responsible for the existing functions of the Department of Overseas Trade, and for the commercial development and marketing of minerals including uranium and hydro-carbon fuels.

The remaining functions of the Department of National Resources and in particular national energy planning and research and minerals exploration and resource assessment, will be continued in a newly named Department of National Development. This Department will also be responsible for the Government's decentralisation policies.

For some time now the Treasury and the Department of Finance have been separate Departments operating under the one Minister, the Treasurer. There is a heavy burden in this area to be borne at the ministerial level, both in the Parliament and in responsibility for economic affairs. The time has come, I believe, for two Ministers to be appointed - a Treasurer and a Minister for Finance - and this is now proposed.

Some functions of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will be shifted to a new Department of

Home Affairs, in particular the arts and women's affairs; and from the Department of Administrative Services various cultural bodies, national archives, and external territories will also be transferred. Looking ahead I would expect the Department of Home Affairs in due course to absorb any residual functions of the Department of the Northern Territory and the Department of the Capital Territory after the Northern Territory and Capital Territory respectively achieve the additional measures of self-government that are presently planned.

In the changes that are to be made I am proposing a new initiative in respect of policies and programs in the health and welfare field. Various administrative arrangements have been examined, including by the Royal Commission on Australian Government Administration, to achieve maximum co-ordination. A Secretariat will be established within the Department of Social Security responsible for the development of plans and policies and review of existing policies and programs in the broad field of health and welfare. The Secretariat will be headed by a senior Second Division officer and will comprise mainly expert officials seconded from Departments. It will work to a committee of Permanent Heads and a Standing Committee of Cabinet, while coming under the immediate supervision of the Head of the Department of Social Security.

There will be other administrative changes which will streamline and improve government operations. A new

## Background Notes

### CHANGES IN MINISTERIAL AND DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

The following details of changes to be made to administrative arrangements supplement the statement by the Prime Minister issued on 19 December 1977.

#### NEW AND RETITLED DEPARTMENTS

A Department of Home Affairs is to be established, and the existing Departments of National Resources and Overseas Trade will be replaced by new Departments of National Development and of Trade and Resources. The number of departments will increase from 28 to 29.

As mentioned earlier, it has been decided that the Minister for Special Trade Negotiations will in future be known as the Minister for Special Trade Representations. The Department of the Special Trade Negotiator will be renamed the Department of the Special Trade Representative.

#### Home Affairs

This Department will assume responsibility for administration of the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Territory of Christmas Island, Norfolk Island and the Coral Sea Islands Territory (from the Department of Administrative Services), national archives and national museums (also from the Department of Administrative Services), and women's affairs and support for the arts and letters (from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet).

Associated bodies for which the Minister for Home Affairs will be responsible include the Australian War Memorial, the National Library of Australia, the Australia Council, the Australian National Gallery, the Australian Film Commission and the Film and Television School. In addition the permanent women's advisory body referred to in the policy speech of 21 November will, when established, report to the Minister for Home Affairs.

It is the Government's intention that, in the long term, residual functions of the Departments of the Northern Territory and the Capital Territory will be transferred to the Department of Home Affairs. With this in mind, administration of the Departments of Home Affairs and the Capital Territory will, as already indicated, be the responsibility of one Minister.

#### National Development

The functions of this Department reflect the Government's intention that resources be devoted as a matter of priority to the development of a national energy plan. In addition to the fundamental tasks of geodesy, mapping and mineral and energy resource assessment, performed by the Division of National Mapping and the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics, the Department will have responsibility for energy planning and research, exploration policy, water resources and electricity, and matters relating to the processing and distribution of oil and gas.



The Minister for National Development will be responsible for all bodies which currently report to the Minister for National Resources, with the exception of the Joint Coal Board and the National Coal Research Advisory Committee. Ministerial responsibility for these bodies will be transferred to the Minister for Trade and Resources. Nuclear commercial functions of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission will also become the responsibility of the Minister for Trade and Resources, all other aspects being allocated to the Minister for National Development.

It has also been decided that responsibility for urban and regional planning and development, including decentralisation and growth centres, should be transferred to the new Department of National Development from the Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development. Responsibility for the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation, the Ministerial Council on the Development of Albury-Wodonga and the Decentralisation Advisory Board will be transferred to the Minister for National Development from the Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development.

#### Trade and Resources

This Department will assume responsibility for all functions of the existing Department of Overseas Trade, together with those functions of the existing Department of National Resources which relate to the mining, production and marketing of minerals (including uranium and hydrocarbon fuels), and economic matters affecting the mining industry.

## OTHER CHANGES IN FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### Employment and Industrial Relations

It has been decided that responsibility for the National Training Council should be transferred from the Minister for Productivity to the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, and that training policy should be transferred from the Department of Productivity to the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations.

### Foreign Affairs

Responsibility for the Australia-Japan Foundation will be transferred from the Prime Minister to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

### Immigration and Ethnic Affairs

It has been decided to transfer to the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs responsibility for post-arrival migrant welfare (from Department of Social Security) and migrant adult education (from Department of Education).

### Prime Minister and Cabinet

Responsibility for Royal Commissions (other than servicing aspects) will be transferred from the Department of Administrative Services to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

### Science

Responsibility for servicing the Australian Science and Technology Council will be transferred from the Department

of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to the Department of Science. Ministerial responsibility for ASTEC will be assumed by the Minister for Science.

#### Social Security

The Department of Social Security is to assume responsibility for the development of plans and policies, and the review of existing policies and programs, in the broad field of health and welfare. To carry out this important responsibility, a special Secretariat will be formed within the Department; the Secretariat, to be headed by a senior officer, will be small and will consist mainly of expert officials seconded from departments.

#### Treasury

The Australian Industry Development Corporation will be transferred from the Finance Ministry to the Treasury Ministry.

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