

MR TEEND  
File



**PRIME MINISTER**

Secretary  
Prime Minister and Cabinet  
- 6 FEB 1979

FOR PRESS

4 FEBRUARY 1979

CHANGES IN CABINET ARRANGEMENTS

The Prime Minister announced today changes in the structure and membership of the Standing Committees of Cabinet.

These changes flow from a review of Cabinet arrangements asked for by the Prime Minister late last year.

The new structure of Standing Committees matches more closely the present flow of Cabinet business. Some Committees have been reduced in size to facilitate their operations. However other Ministers are co-opted to Standing Committees for particular policy items as required. Ministers proposing policy items are automatically co-opted.

Major issues, particularly in relation to the economy and employment, will continue to be taken in full Cabinet. Standing Committees will meet throughout the year as the workload requires. They will continue to be supported by committees of officials.

The review of Cabinet arrangements confirmed a significant and continuing increase in the volume of business coming forward for decision, a continuing feature of federal administration under the present and previous Governments. Streamlining measures have been taken in the past to reduce the workload on Cabinet. The Prime Minister has informed Ministers of further changes designed to reduce the Cabinet workload, including a request that Ministers handle more matters on their own discretion. Cabinet has also authorised the Minister for Finance to approve minor new expenditures bilaterally with Ministers without Cabinet consideration.

The growing volume of Cabinet business comes from a variety of reasons, particularly the complexity of government and the increasing need at the federal and state level for co-ordination of policies. The Cabinet Office has been asked to continue its task of orderly programming of meetings and improving the presentation of proposals for decision.

The practice will continue of establishing other Cabinet Committees on an ad hoc basis for specific purposes. The Ministerial Public Information Committee, chaired by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, will also continue to operate.

The new Standing Committees of Cabinet and their membership are shown in the attachment.

CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (CC)

Terms of Reference

To consider overall government strategy and to deal with matters referred to it by the Prime Minister.

Membership

Mr Fraser	Prime Minister (Chairman)
Mr Anthony	Deputy Prime Minister
Mr Lynch	Minister for Industry and Commerce
Mr Sinclair	Minister for Primary Industry
Sen. Carrick	Minister for Education

Permanent Heads Committee

Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and  
Cabinet (Chairman)  
Secretary, Department of the Treasury  
Secretary, Department of Trade and Resources  
Secretary, Department of Finance  
Chairman, Public Service Board

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE COMMITTEE (FAD)

Terms of Reference

To consider matters concerned with international relations and defence.

Membership

Mr Fraser	Prime Minister (Chairman)
Mr Anthony	Minister for Trade and Resources
Mr Lynch	Minister for Industry and Commerce
Mr Sinclair	Minister for Primary Industry
Sen. Carrick	Minister for Education
Mr Howard	Treasurer
Mr Peacock	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Killen	Minister for Defence
Mr MacKellar	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Minister Assisting the Treasurer

Permanent Heads Committee

Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Chairman)  
Secretary, Department of Defence  
Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs  
Secretary, Department of the Treasury  
Secretary, Department of Finance  
Secretary, Department of Trade and Resources

INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE (IS)

Terms of Reference

To set overall policy and oversee the work of the intelligence community.

Membership

Mr Fraser	Prime Minister (Chairman)
Mr Anthony	Minister for Trade and Resources
Mr Sinclair	Minister for Primary Industry
Mr Peacock	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Killen	Minister for Defence
Mr Robinson	Minister for Finance
Sen. Durack	Attorney-General
Mr McLeay	Minister for Administrative Services and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence

Permanent Heads Committee

Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Chairman)  
Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs  
Secretary, Department of Defence  
Chief of Defence Force Staff  
Secretary, Department of Finance  
Director, Office of National Assessments  
Director-General of Security

MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE (MP)

Terms of Reference

To deal with matters relating to interest rates, banking policy and currency exchange rates.

Membership

Mr Fraser	Prime Minister (Chairman)
Mr Anthony	Minister for Trade and Resources
Mr Lynch	Minister for Industry and Commerce
Mr Sinclair	Minister for Primary Industry
Sen. Carrick	Minister for Education
Mr Street	Minister for Industrial Relations
Mr Nixon	Minister for Transport
Mr Howard	Treasurer
Mr Robinson	Minister for Finance

Committee of Officials

Governor, Reserve Bank (Chairman)  
Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister  
and Cabinet  
Secretary, Department of the Treasury  
Secretary, Department of Finance

## WAGES POLICY COMMITTEE (WP)

### Terms of Reference

To settle the Government's Submissions at the National Wage Case and deal with related matters referred to it by the Prime Minister or Cabinet.

### Membership

Mr Lynch	Minister for Industry and Commerce (Chairman)
Mr Sinclair	Minister for Primary Industry
Mr Street	Minister for Industrial Relations
Mr Nixon	Minister for Transport
Mr Howard	Treasurer
Mr Peacock	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Viner	Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister
Sen. Durack	Attorney-General
Mr Macphee	Minister for Productivity and Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry and Commerce
Mr Ellicott	Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for the Capital Territory
Mr Groom	Minister for Housing and Construction

### Task Group of Officials

Dept of Industrial Relations (Chair)  
Dept of Employment and Youth Affairs  
Dept of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Dept of the Treasury  
Public Service Board

SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY COMMITTEE (SWP)

Terms of Reference

To oversee and consider plans and policies and review existing policies and programs in the broad field of health, welfare and education.

Membership

Mr Lynch	Minister for Industry and Commerce (Chairman)
Sen. Carrick	Minister for Education
Sen. Guilfoyle	Minister for Social Security
Mr Robinson	Minister for Finance
Mr Viner	Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister
Mr Hunt	Minister for Health
Mr MacKellar	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Minister Assisting the Treasurer
Mr Adermann	Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for Primary Industry
Mr Ellicott	Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for the Capital Territory
Mr Groom	Minister for Housing and Construction

Permanent Heads Committee

Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and  
Cabinet (Chairman)  
Director-General, Department of Social Security  
Director-General, Department of Health  
Secretary, Department of Finance

## LEGISLATION COMMITTEE (LEG)

### Terms of Reference

To examine draft Bills, and ensure their compliance with the terms of Decisions of the Cabinet or Cabinet Committees.

To consider minor legislative proposals, determine priority and authorise drafting.

To develop and monitor the legislation program for each Parliamentary sittings, including oversight of priorities for drafting and passage.

To oversee the Parliamentary proceedings and priorities.

### Membership

Mr Sinclair	Leader of the House (Chairman)
Sen. Carrick	Leader of the Government in the Senate
Mr Nixon	Minister for Transport
Mr Peacock	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Viner	Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister
Sen. Durack	Attorney-General
Sen. Webster	Minister for Science and the Environment
Mr Macphee	Minister for Productivity and Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry and Commerce
Mr Garland	Minister for Special Trade Representations and Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Resources
Mr Ellicott	Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for the Capital Territory
Mr Groom	Minister for Housing and Construction

### Permanent Heads Committee

Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and  
Cabinet (Chairman)  
Secretary, Attorney-General's Department  
First Parliamentary Counsel



## GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE

### Terms of Reference

To consider matters broadly within existing policy guidelines, as referred by the Prime Minister.

To deal with organisational and administrative matters.

### Membership

Mr Lynch	Minister for Industry and Commerce (Chairman)
Mr Nixon	Minister for Transport
Sen. Guilfoyle	Minister for Social Security
Mr Robinson	Minister for Finance
Mr Viner	Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister
Sen. Durack	Attorney-General
Mr Hunt	Minister for Health
Mr MacKellar(1)	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Minister Assisting the Treasurer
Mr Adermann	Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for Primary Industry
Mr Newman	Minister for National Development
Mr Staley	Minister for Post and Telecommunications
Sen. Chaney	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for Education

(1) Representing the Treasurer

### Permanent Heads Committee

Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and  
Cabinet (Chairman)  
Secretary, Department of Finance  
Chairman, Public Service Board  
Secretary, Department of Administrative Services

## INDUSTRY POLICY COMMITTEE

### Terms of Reference

To consider matters arising from reports of the Industries Assistance Commission and the Temporary Assistance Authority.

To oversee Government Purchasing policy, including the acquisition of ADP capability.

To deal with matters affecting Australian industry generally.

### Membership

Mr Lynch	Minister for Industry and Commerce (Chairman)
Mr Sinclair	Minister for Primary Industry
Mr Street	Minister for Industrial Relations
Mr Killen	Minister for Defence
Mr Robinson	Minister for Finance
Mr Viner	Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister
Mr MacKellar(1)	Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Minister Assisting the Treasurer
Mr McLeay	Minister for Administrative Services and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence
Sen. Webster	Minister for Science and the Environment
Mr Macphee	Minister for Productivity and Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry and Commerce
Mr Fife	Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Federal Affairs
Mr Garland	Minister for Special Trade Representations and Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Resources

(1) Representing the Treasurer

### Permanent Heads Committee

Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Chairman)  
Secretary, Department of Industry and Commerce  
Secretary, Department of the Treasury  
Secretary, Department of Business and Consumer Affairs