



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

THE NEW MINISTRY

2 November 1980

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

It has been decided to reduce the number of Departments by two and the number of Ministers by one. This means there will now be twenty six Ministers and twenty six Departments.

The full list of Ministers and their portfolios is shown in the attached list.

As will be clear, the Departments to be abolished are those of Productivity and the Special Trade Representative.

The environment functions of the Department of Science and the Environment are to be placed in the Home Affairs portfolio, and the productivity promotion and technology related functions of the Department of Productivity will be joined with Science to form a Department of Science and Technology. The link between the science and technology related functions is clear, and advice to the Government from the Australian Science and Technology Council was that there would be considerable merit in joining them together in a Department. The Patents Office and the Australian Industrial Research and Development Incentives Board will also be part of the Department of Science and Technology.

The Minister for Industry and Commerce will have responsibility from now on for the defence factories formerly located in the Productivity portfolio.

A revised Administrative Arrangements Order will be placed before the Executive Council on Monday and, if approved, then be Gazetted.

Mr Lynch, as Minister for Industry and Commerce, will continue to have an overriding responsibility in the industry policy field and in the co-ordination of policy development generally. He will also be assisting me with the management of Cabinet business and in chairing a number of Cabinet committees.

Senator Chaney has joined the Cabinet as Minister for Social Security and will take on direct responsibility also for the Social Welfare Policy Secretariat which is responsible for policy development and review activity in the broad field of health and welfare. I have asked Senator Chaney to give special personal attention to policy development within his portfolio and also to achieving greater co-ordination of programs and services in the welfare field.

I am asking Mr Newman to continue in his co-ordinating role in reporting to the Government on matters of particular concern to Tasmania, including in following up the Callaghan Report.

The practice will continue of appointing Ministers Assisting in the portfolios of senior Ministers where the workload is especially heavy. These appointments are shown in the attached list.

It has also been decided to appoint two Government members as Parliamentary Secretaries to Ministers. Mr Wilson will be my Parliamentary Secretary, and Mr Lloyd will be Parliamentary Secretary to Mr Nixon. Their role as Parliamentary Secretaries will include assistance to the Minister with a range of his duties including with his correspondence, liaison with other Members of Parliament, and meetings with delegations and clients of the Department and authorities within the portfolio, and other representational activities.

Senator Carrick will be continuing as Leader of the Government in the Senate and as Vice-President of the Executive Council, and Mr Sinclair will be continuing as Leader of the House. Senator Durack will continue as Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Mr McLeay approached me to ask that he not be considered for the Ministry on this occasion. He wished to make room for a new Minister to be given an opportunity. He said he would prefer to be given the opportunity to serve in other capacities.

Mr Garland also indicated to me that he would be interested in serving in another capacity if there were the opportunity. The Government has decided, having in mind his experience both inside and outside the Parliament and particularly the important diplomatic and negotiating role he played as Minister for Special Trade Representations especially in relation to the EEC, to appoint him as Australian High Commissioner to Britain. It is planned that he take over this role from

Sir James Plimsoll towards the middle of 1981. I take this opportunity to record the Government's appreciation of Sir James Plimsoll's long and distinguished service.

I pay tribute to Mr McLeay and Mr Garland for their Parliamentary and Ministerial service.

I would also like to pay tribute to Mr Adermann and Mr Groom who will not be serving in the new Ministry. Each has contributed to the Government's work over recent years. I thank them warmly for that and I am sure they will continue to contribute significantly to public life.

I greatly regret that Mr Robinson has chosen not to serve in the new Ministry. He has been a valued colleague.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

Fourth Fraser Ministry

- *1. Prime Minister THE RT HON. MALCOLM FRASER, C.H., M.P.
- *2. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister 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 Communications and Leader of the House THE RT HON. IAN SINCLAIR, M.P.
- *5. Minister for National Development and Energy, Vice-President of the Executive Council and Leader of the Government in the Senate SENATOR THE HON. J.L. CARRICK
- *6. Minister for Foreign Affairs THE HON. A.A. STREET, M.P.
- *7. Minister for Primary Industry THE HON. P.J. NIXON, M.P.
- *8. Treasurer THE HON. JOHN HOWARD, M.P.
- *9. Minister for Industrial Relations THE HON. ANDREW PEACOCK, M.P.
- *10. Minister for Defence THE HON. D.J. KILLEN, M.P.
- *11. Minister for Finance SENATOR THE HON. DAME MARGARET GUILFOYLE, D.B.E.
- *12. Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister THE HON. IAN VINER, M.P.
- *13. Attorney-General SENATOR THE HON. PETER DURACK, Q.C.
- *14. Minister for Social Security SENATOR THE HON. F.M. CHANEY
15. Minister for Home Affairs and Environment THE HON. R.J. ELLICOTT, Q.C., M.P.
16. Minister for Transport THE HON. RALPH J. HUNT, M.P.
17. Minister for Health THE HON. M.J.R. MACKELLAR, M.P.
18. Minister for Education and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Federal Affairs THE HON. WAL FIFE, M.P.
19. Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs THE HON. IAN MACPHEE, M.P.
20. Minister for Science and Technology THE HON. DAVID THOMSON, M.C., M.P.
21. Minister for Administrative Services and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence THE HON. KEVIN NEWMAN, M.P.
22. Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs THE HON. J.C. MOORE, M.P.
23. Minister for the Capital Territory and Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry and Commerce THE HON. MICHAEL HODGMAN, M.P.
24. Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister Assisting the Treasurer SENATOR THE HON. A.J. MESSNER

25. Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for National Development and Energy SENATOR THE HON. PETER BAUME
26. Minister for Housing and Construction and Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Resources THE HON. D.T. MCVEIGH, M.P.

* Minister in the Cabinet

3 November 1980