



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

22 DECEMBER 1987

Brian Burke, the Premier of Western Australia, has today announced his intention to retire from active politics on 25 February when he will resign the Premiership.

I wish to place on record my appreciation for the great contribution Brian Burke has made since he was swept to office in the State election of 1983, immediately prior to the election of my Government. During his tenure, Western Australia has recorded remarkable growth, due in great measure to the restructuring reforms which Premier Burke and his Government have put in place.

Brian Burke's contribution has been a distinguished one and he has always been an articulate advocate for his State in his dealings with the Commonwealth. His voice and his advice will be greatly missed. He is a young man at the zenith of his powers and popularity who could have remained as Premier of Western Australia for a decade or more, had he so chosen. While I greatly regret his decision, I understand his personal reasons for setting himself a timetable for his political career.

While Brian Burke's political skills will be missed, I am delighted that he will continue to serve Australia in his new and important posting as our Ambassador to Ireland. He brings great personal and professional skills to that position, and I am confident that he will discharge his duties of fostering and strengthening the historic and important relationship between Ireland and Australia with distinction.

I look forward to continuing a close partnership with the new Premier.

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