



STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER DESIGNATE THE HON JOHN HOWARD MP

The swearing in of the first Howard Ministry will take place on Monday 11 March 1996. Today I announce the composition of the Ministry and the Departmental changes which I will be recommending to the Governor-General.

The Ministry list is attached to this statement.

The Ministry is talented, dedicated and determined to govern in the best interests of the Australian people. We begin this task with a great sense of the responsibility which the Australian people have bestowed upon us and the expectations they rightly have that we will implement our programme with integrity, energy and an ongoing sense of their needs and concerns.

The Ministry reflects the 'broad church' of views and priorities for which the Coalition Parties stand. It consists of men and women drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds and interests and all committed to ensuring that Australia realises more of its great potential to the benefit of all in our community.

In line with our commitments to smaller government, the size of both the Ministry and the Cabinet will be reduced from their levels under the previous government. A more streamlined government will also enhance the quality and timeliness of decision-making.

I will also be appointing Parliamentary Secretaries in a number of portfolios who will complement the Ministerial team. Parliamentary Secretaries to the Prime Minister will be Chris Miles who will have responsibility for Cabinet issues and Senator Nick Minchin who will have responsibility for arrangements relating to the Constitutional Convention and Native Title legislation.

DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES

In considering appropriate administrative structures, I have had in mind:

- the importance of effective implementation of the policies and priorities of the Government
- the desirability, in some areas, of rationalising allocations of functions
- the need to minimise the degree of administrative disruption to ensure that agencies can carry out the important tasks they will now have.

There will be no new departments of State, but two departments, the Department of Tourism and the Department of Housing and Regional Development, will be abolished and their functions absorbed into existing departments.

The functions of the Department of Tourism, which is by far the smallest Commonwealth department, will be allocated to the (renamed) Department of Industry, Science and Tourism under John Moore.

Upon the abolition of Housing and Regional Development, responsibility for industry aspects of housing will return to the Department of Industry, Science and Tourism. Portfolio coverage of two of our most important industries - housing and tourism - will thus be consolidated. Welfare housing will pass to the Department of Social Security under Jocelyn Newman while John Sharp will have responsibility for regional development as the Minister for Transport and Regional Development, in charge of the department of that name. Local government will be the responsibility of Warwick Smith as Minister for Sport, Territories and Local Government, one of the two Ministers in the portfolio of Environment, Sport and Territories. The senior minister, who will represent the portfolio in the Cabinet as Minister for the Environment, is Senator Robert Hill.

Other significant rationalisations of functions include:

- consumer affairs functions, currently the responsibility of the Attorney-General's portfolio, will transfer to the portfolio of Industry, Science and Tourism where they will be the responsibility of Geoff Prosser as Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs.
- Senator Jocelyn Newman will be the Minister Assisting me for the Status of Women. The Office of the Status of Women will, as I undertook before the election, remain in my department.
- the science functions until now located in the Prime Minister's portfolio will move to the Industry, Science and Tourism portfolio, where they will be the responsibility of Peter McGauran as Minister for Science and Technology.
- the Office of Multicultural Affairs will move from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet into the renamed portfolio of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, to be administered by Philip Ruddock.

The new Productivity Commission, which combines the functions of the Industry Commission, the Economic Planning Advisory Commission and the Bureau of Industry Economics, will be located in the Treasury portfolio under Peter Costello once the legislation to create it is in place. Meanwhile, the three agencies will be co-located in the portfolio so that amalgamation can begin on an administrative basis. The Australian Securities Commission will also transfer to the Treasury portfolio. It is important, in the view of the government, that responsibility for regulation of financial markets be consolidated in a single portfolio.

Two other departments will be renamed so as to better reflect the priorities of the government. They are the Department of Health and Family Services, which in addition to having Michael Wooldridge as the portfolio minister, will have Judi Moylan as the Minister for Family Services; and Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, where the portfolio minister will be Senator Amanda Vanstone, with David Kemp as the Minister for Schools, Vocational Education and Training.

PARLIAMENTARY APPOINTMENTS

The Leader of the Government in the House of Representatives will be Peter Reith and the Deputy Leader will be Peter McGauran.

The Leader of the Government in the Senate will be Senator Robert Hill and the Deputy Leader will be Senator Richard Alston.

The Chief Government Whip in the House of Representatives will be Alan Cadman and Government Whips will be Stewart McArthur and Trish Worth. National Party Whips will be Noel Hicks and Garry Nehl.

Mr Bob Halverson who served as Chief Opposition Whip informed me that he did not wish to be considered for appointment as Chief Government Whip. It is my understanding that he will seek the support of the Liberal Party in another position.

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

There will be some changes in departmental secretary arrangements.

Mr Paul Barratt who has been the Executive Director of the Business Council of Australia since 1992 will rejoin the public service as Secretary to the Department of Primary Industries and Energy. Other newly appointed secretaries will be:

- Mr Philip Flood, to head the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Mr Flood has been Director-General of the Office of National Assessments since 1995.
- Mr Roger Beale, who is Associate Secretary in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, will be Secretary to the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories.
- Dr Neil Johnston, who is a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Social Security, will be Secretary to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Because we are reducing the number of departments and making some new appointments, several secretaries will be leaving the public service. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their contribution to the public service and the nation.

Dr Michael Keating, the head of my department, has informed me that he intended to retire this year. Dr Keating is a highly professional public servant who is widely respected for his work at the centre of public sector reform. I have asked him to stay on for the time being to assist with the transition of the new government. I would hope that Dr Keating will continue to have some involvement with the Commonwealth Government after he retires.

The opportunity has also been taken for some rotation of departmental secretaries. A list of departmental secretaries is attached.

We have a high regard for these public service leaders and for the public service as a whole. We expect secretaries, and the departments they manage, to make a significant contribution to good and effective government as we set about implementing our policy programme.

CABINET OFFICE

I have also decided to establish a Cabinet Office within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Michael L'Estrange will head the office and be accountable directly to the Prime Minister. Mr L'Estrange has experience as an officer of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and as Chief Policy Adviser to former Coalition Leaders, as well as heading the Canberra-based Menzies Research Centre since its establishment. The Cabinet Office will be a small unit, staffed from within and outside the public service, which will provide the Prime Minister with advice on issues before Cabinet as well as strategic policy directions.

8 March 1996

FIRST HOWARD MINISTRY

* THE HON JOHN HOWARD MP	Prime Minister
* MR TIM FISCHER MP	Minister for Trade Deputy Prime Minister
* MR PETER COSTELLO MP	Treasurer
* MR JOHN ANDERSON MP	Minister for Primary Industries and Energy
* SENATOR ROBERT HILL	Minister for the Environment Leader of the Government in the Senate
* SENATOR RICHARD ALSTON	Minister for Communications and the Arts Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate
* MR PETER REITH MP	Minister for Industrial Relations Leader of the House
* SENATOR JOCELYN NEWMAN	Minister for Social Security and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women
* MR ALEXANDER DOWNER MP	Minister for Foreign Affairs
* THE HON JOHN MOORE MP	Minister for Industry, Science & Tourism Vice President of the Executive Council
* MR IAN MCLACHLAN AO MP	Minister for Defence
* MR JOHN SHARP MP	Minister for Transport & Regional Development
* DR MICHAEL WOOLDRIDGE MP	Minister for Health & Family Services
* THE HON JOHN FAHEY	Minister for Finance
* SENATOR AMANDA VANSTONE	Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs
MR PHILIP RUDDOCK MP	Minister for Immigration & Multicultural Affairs
MR PETER MCGAURAN MP	Minister for Science & Technology Deputy Leader of the House
DR DAVID KEMP MP	Minister for Schools, Vocational Education & Training & Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service
SENATOR JIM SHORT	Assistant Treasurer
SENATOR WARWICK PARER	Minister for Resources and Energy
MR GEOFF PROSSER MP	Minister for Small Business & Consumer Affairs
MRS JUDI MOYLAN MP	Minister for Family Services
MRS BRONWYN BISHOP MP	Minister for Defence Industry, Science & Personnel
MR DARYL WILLIAMS AM QC MP	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
MR WARWICK SMITH MP	Minister for Sport, Territories and Local Government
MR BRUCE SCOTT MP	Minister for Veterans' Affairs
SENATOR JOHN HERRON	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
MR DAVID JULL MP	Minister for Administrative Services

* denotes Cabinet Minister

**COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT
FIRST HOWARD MINISTRY**

TITLE	MINISTER	OTHER CHAMBER
Prime Minister Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs <i>Parliamentary Secretary</i> (Cabinet) <i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	The Hon John Howard MP Senator John Herron <i>Mr Chris Miles MP</i> <i>Senator Nick Minchin</i>	Senator Robert Hill Dr Michael Wooldridge MP
Minister for Trade Deputy Prime Minister <i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	Mr Tim Fischer MP <i>Senator David Brownhill</i>	Senator Robert Hill
Treasurer Assistant Treasurer <i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	Mr Peter Costello MP Senator Jim Short <i>Senator Brian Gibson</i>	Senator Jim Short
Minister for Primary Industries and Energy Minister for Resources and Energy <i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	Mr John Anderson MP Senator Warwick Parer <i>Senator David Brownhill</i>	Senator Warwick Parer Mr John Anderson MP
Minister for the Environment Leader of the Government in the Senate Minister for Sport, Territories and Local Government <i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	Senator Robert Hill Mr Warwick Smith <i>Senator Ian Campbell</i>	Mr Warwick Smith MP Senator Robert Hill
Minister for Communications and the Arts Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate	Senator Richard Alston	Mr Warwick Smith MP
Minister for Industrial Relations <i>Leader of the House</i>	Mr Peter Reith MP	Senator Richard Alston
Minister for Social Security and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women <i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	Senator Jocelyn Newman <i>Senator Rod Kemp</i>	Mr Philip Ruddock MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs <i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	Mr Alexander Downer MP <i>Mr Andrew Thomson MP</i>	Senator Robert Hill

Minister for Industry, Science & Tourism (Vice President of the Executive Council)	The Hon John Moore MP	Senator Warwick Parer
Minister for Science and Technology	Mr Peter McGauran MP	Senator Warwick Parer
<i>Deputy Leader of the House</i> Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs	Mr Geoff Prosser MP	Senator Warwick Parer
Minister for Defence	Mr Ian McLachlan AO MP	Senator Jocelyn Newman
Minister for Defence Industry, Science and Personnel	Mrs Bronwyn Bishop MP	Senator Jocelyn Newman
Minister for Veterans' Affairs	Mr Bruce Scott MP	Senator Jocelyn Newman
Minister for Transport and Regional Development	Mr John Sharp MP	Senator Richard Alston
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	<i>Senator Grant Tambling</i>	
Minister for Health and Family Services	Dr Michael Wooldridge MP	Senator Jocelyn Newman
Minister for Family Services	Mrs Judi Moylan MP	Senator Jocelyn Newman
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	<i>Senator Bob Woods</i>	
Minister for Finance	The Hon John Fahey MP	Senator Jim Short
Minister for Administrative Services	Mr David Jull MP	Senator Jim Short
Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs	Senator Amanda Vanstone	Dr David Kemp MP
Minister for Schools, Vocational Education and Training and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service	Dr David Kemp MP	Senator Amanda Vanstone
<i>Parliamentary Secretary</i>	<i>Mr Tony Abbott MP</i>	
Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	Mr Philip Ruddock MP	Senator Jim Short
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice	Mr Daryl Williams AM QC MP	Senator Amanda Vanstone

Cabinet Ministers are shown in bold type

DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARIES

Administrative Services (in Finance portfolio)	Mr John Mellors
Attorney-General's	Mr Stephen Skehill
Communications and the Arts	Mr Neville Stevens
Defence	Mr Tony Ayers AC
Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs	Mr Sandy Hollway
Environment, Sport and Territories	Mr Roger Beale
Finance	Mr Steve Sedgwick
Foreign Affairs and Trade	Mr Philip Flood AO
Health and Family Services	Mr Andrew Podger
Immigration and Multicultural Affairs	Ms Helen Williams AO
Industrial Relations	Dr David Rosalky
Industry, Science and Tourism	Mr Greg Taylor AO
Primary Industries and Energy	Mr Paul Barratt
Prime Minister and Cabinet	Dr Michael Keating AC
Social Security	Mr Tony Blunn AO
Transport and Regional Development	Mr Allan Hawke
Treasury	Mr Ted Evans
Veterans' Affairs (in Defence portfolio)	Dr Neil Johnston