



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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PREMIER ANNOUNCES KEY APPOINTMENTS - NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today announced the appointment of Chris Eccles as Director General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Mr O'Farrell also announced key public service appointments to oversee the improvements in services and new infrastructure needed to make NSW number one again.

Director General of the Education Department Michael Coutts-Trotter will be appointed to head up the key economic Department of Finance and Services.

Mr O'Farrell also announced Dr Mary Foley had been appointed Director General of the NSW Health Department, replacing Professor Debora Picone.

Mr Eccles is currently Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for the Labor Government in South Australia.

Mr O'Farrell said his new team, headed by Chris Eccles, would bring a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and expertise to the administration of NSW services.

"Chris has proven himself in both government and the private sector," Mr O'Farrell said.

"He will bring a fresh approach to the NSW Public Service – something we have needed for a long time.

"This decision is further proof that appointments will be based on merit, rather than political persuasion," he said.

The current Director General, Brendan O'Reilly, has indicated he's unable to commit to a four year term.

"However, I am delighted that he is willing to stay and assist with the transition process," Mr O'Farrell said.

"He is highly regarded by all sides of politics and his corporate knowledge will be invaluable for the new government."

Mr O'Farrell said Mr Coutts-Trotter had proven his financial and administrative expertise by heading up one of the biggest Government departments, Education for

the last four years and previously as Director General of the Department of Commerce.

“Michael’s appointment is further proof of my Government’s determination to base appointments on merit.

“I’ve said before Mr Coutts-Trotter has a role in the NSW public sector and here is the proof.

“He will head up the new Department of Finance and Services and play a key role in reviving the State’s economic fortunes.”

Mr O’Farrell said Dr Foley had held leadership roles in government, corporate, academic and not-for-profit sectors. Most recently she was National Health Practice Leader for Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

“Dr Foley has experience in the NSW and Federal public service and worked in corporate health care with Mayne Nickless Limited.”

Mr O’Farrell said further appointments would be made in the coming days.

“This is a terrific team which will drive the reform needed to restore confidence and improve the State’s services and infrastructure,” Mr O’Farrell said.

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