



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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PREMIER ANNOUNCES FIRST CABINET

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today announced his first Cabinet – the team which will help make NSW Number One again.

Mr O'Farrell said he had put together the strongest possible Cabinet which will be charged with the job of delivering all the new Government's commitments.

He said it is based on the team which steered the NSW Liberals & Nationals into office last weekend – with an injection of new talent.

There will be three new faces in Cabinet:

- Robyn Parker, the Member for Maitland, who will take the role of Environment and Heritage;
- Victor Dominello, the Member for Ryde, who becomes Minister for Citizenship, Communities and Aboriginal Affairs; and,
- Graham Annesley, the Member for Miranda who will be Minister for Sport and Recreation.

Mr O'Farrell said the performance of the new Ministers was so compelling that he could not ignore their credentials to be included in the Cabinet.

He said Mr Dominello had turned the marginal seat of Ryde into one of the safest in the State for the Liberals with 76 per cent of the two party preferred vote.

Mr Annesley, who was previously Chief Operating Officer with the National Rugby League, is highly regarded in the sporting community while Robyn Parker had won a tough seat and holds a keen interest in the environment.

“The three new Ministers have earned their places in the Cabinet and will ensure we have some new talent in the team,” Mr O'Farrell said.

Mr O'Farrell said there would be several new-look departments including Finances and Services, and Mental Health and Healthy Lifestyles.

The Deputy Premier, Andrew Stoner will head up a new portfolio of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services.

Mr O'Farrell said the key regional areas of NSW would finally be recognised in the new Cabinet.

Ministers will be responsible for the North Coast (Don Page), the Central Coast (Chris Hartcher), Western NSW (Kevin Humphries), Illawarra (Greg Pearce) and the Hunter (Mike Gallacher).

Mr O'Farrell said women would have a strong voice in the NSW government. He said two of the biggest portfolios, Health and Transport would be overseen by Jillian Skinner and Gladys Berejiklian. Robyn Parker and Katrina Hodgkinson had also been appointed to the Ministry while NSW will have its first female speaker, Shelley Hancock.

The Nationals have one fewer position – and the Liberals one extra position - in the Ministry based on the results of last Saturday's election.

Mr O'Farrell paid tribute to Greg Aplin, Catherine Cusack and Melinda Pavey who did not progress to the Ministry.

“They have done a terrific job and I expect there will be further opportunities for them in the future,” he said

“Unfortunately we cannot appoint everyone who deserves to be in Cabinet – otherwise we would have the biggest Cabinet in history.”

Mr O'Farrell said he would appoint Parliamentary Secretaries before Parliament resumes.

“We have chosen the best possible team – based on merit - and the people of NSW can be assured that we will begin work immediately to honour the promises we have made,” he said.

“We have a tough job ahead of us to build the infrastructure we need to provide to provide world class services and restore confidence in NSW.

“The hard work begins today,” Mr O'Farrell said.

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