



## Senior staffers quit Carr office

By DAVID NASON

THE office of the NSW Premier, Mr Carr, has been rocked by the resignations of two key staffers who are to set up a Sydney-based business and political consultancy.

Mr Carr's chief of staff, Mr Bruce Hawker, 40, and senior adviser Mr David Britton, 41, will leave in April after nine years working for the now Premier.

Both have played strategic roles in NSW politics, especially in the 1991 and 1995 State elections.

The first election resulted in a hung parliament when polls had suggested a comfortable Coalition victory, while the 1995 poll delivered Labor and Mr Carr victory by one seat.

Their departures bring to five the number of influential senior staffers who have left Mr Carr's employ in the past 12 months.

The others were senior adviser Mr Graeme Wedderburn, Mr Carr's one-time close friend and former Public Employment chief Mr Ken

Cripps, and former Premier's Department head Mr Ken Baxter.

Mr Cripps and Mr Baxter were sacked while Mr Wedderburn resigned late last year to join a family business.

Mr Carr said he understood the desire of Mr Hawker and Mr Britton to "broaden their careers".

"After all, nine years is a long time to work in a political office," Mr Carr said.

The new consultancy will be named Hawker Britton.