

The Hon. Tony Burke MP

Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities



Member for Watson

As the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Tony is working to build an Australia for the future that is more sustainable, makes better use of our natural resources and gives Australian families a better quality of life. For the first time, the Government will be looking at the challenges and opportunities of population including infrastructure, water, environmental, housing and health needs.

Tony Burke was appointed as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in 2007 and then Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities in 2010.

As Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Tony said he would not simply take advice from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and peak industry groups, but also through meetings with people who work the land.

His achievements in the Agriculture portfolio include the development of a plan to reform drought assistance, reforming the nation's biosecurity system, delivering major economic reforms to the bulk wheat export marketing system and overseeing nearly 50 trade market access wins, including in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific and Africa.

Tony was also responsible for many smaller community based projects including local Landcare projects, and employment and training programs for indigenous youth in the primary industries.

In the March 2012 reshuffle, Tony was made Vice-President of the Executive Council, in addition to his ministerial roles.

In previous roles, Tony was appointed directly to the front bench on entering Federal Parliament and served as Shadow Minister for Small Business and Shadow Minister for Immigration.

He has also served as a Member of the NSW Legislative Council.