

# Northern Territory Government

Ministerial Reshuffle

*January 2004*

## **Ministerial Re-shuffle**

Northern Territory Chief Minister, Clare Martin, announced her third Ministerial reshuffle since her 2001 election victory in on 15 December 2003. The unexpected reshuffle involved a significant change of ministerial responsibilities within her Cabinet and the appointment of a new Minister.

Ms Martin said that the reshuffle delivered the best possible team to lead the Territory and focused on Government's priorities of jobs, education and health.

The new Minister appointed to Cabinet is the Member for Arafura, Ms Marion Scrymgour. Ms Scrymgour will be responsible for the portfolios of Family and Community Services and Environment and Heritage, and will assist the Chief Minister in her portfolios of Young Territorians, Women's Policy and Senior Territorians.

Ms Scrymgour's appointment to cabinet makes her Australia's first Aboriginal woman cabinet minister. Ms Scrymgour replaced Mrs Jane Aagaard who held the portfolio responsibilities for Health and Community Services, in the Cabinet.

The Health portfolio has been transferred to the more experienced Dr Peter Toyne who also retains his role as Attorney General. Dr Chris Burns has been awarded for his strong performance since being elevated to Cabinet in late 2002. Kon Vatskalis has lost several portfolios but remains in the Cabinet.

## **Changes in Ministerial Responsibility**

Chief Minister, Clare Martin has taken portfolio responsibility for Tourism in addition to being responsible for the portfolios of Territory Development, AustralAsia Railway, Indigenous Affairs, Arts and Museums, Young Territorians, Woman's Policy and Senior Territorians.

Deputy Chief Minister, Syd Stirling's portfolio responsibilities remain unchanged. He is responsible for the portfolios of Treasurer, Employment, Education and Training and Racing, Gaming and Licensing.

Dr Peter Toyne has been awarded portfolio responsibility for Health. In addition he retains the portfolio responsibilities of Justice and Attorney-General and Central Australia but is no longer responsible for Communications and for Corporate and Information Services.

Paul Henderson increases his portfolio responsibilities to include Communications and Corporate and Information Services. He retains responsibility for Business and Industry, Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Defence Support and Asian Relations and Trade. He is no longer responsible for Resources, which is now known as Mines and Energy.

John Ah Kit's portfolio responsibilities remain unchanged. He is responsible for the portfolios of Community Development, Housing, Local Government, Sport and Recreation, Regional Development and Minister Assisting the Chief Minister on Indigenous Affairs.

Dr Chris Burns has been awarded portfolio responsibility for Transport and Infrastructure, Lands and Planning and Parks and Wildlife. In addition he retains responsibility for Essential Services but is no longer responsible for Tourism, Primary Industry and Fisheries and Environment and Heritage.

Kon Vatskalis has been awarded portfolio responsibility for Mines and Energy and Primary Industry and Fisheries. He retains Ethnic Affairs but is no longer responsible for Transport and Infrastructure, Lands and Planning and Parks and Wildlife.



## **The Honourable Clare Martin MLA**

Chief Minister  
Minister for Tourism  
Minister for Territory Development  
Minister for the AustralAsia Railway  
Minister for Indigenous Affairs  
Minister for Arts and Museums  
Minister for Young Territorians  
Minister for Women's Policy  
Minister for Senior Territorians



## **Hon Syd Stirling MLA**

Treasurer  
Minister for Employment, Education and Training  
Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing



## **Hon Dr Peter Toyne MLA**

Minister for Justice and Attorney-General  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Central Australia



## **Hon Paul Henderson MLA**

Minister for Business and Industry  
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services  
Minister for Defence Support  
Minister for Asian Relations and Trade  
Minister for Corporate and Information Services  
Minister for Communications



**John Ah Kit MLA**

Minister for Community Development  
Minister for Housing  
Minister for Local Government  
Minister for Sport and Recreation  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Indigenous Affairs



**Hon Dr Chris Burns MLA**

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure  
Minister for Lands and Planning  
Minister for Parks and Wildlife  
Minister for Essential Services



**Hon Kon Vatskalis MLA**

Minister for Mines and Energy  
Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries  
Minister for Ethnic Affairs



**Ms Marion Scrymgour MLA**

Minister for Family and Community Services  
Minister for the Environment and Heritage  
Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Young Territorians, Women's Policy and Senior Territorians

## Current Status

This is the first term for the Martin Labor Government. An election is expected in mid to late 2005.

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory consists of 25 electorates. The Australian Labor Party (ALP) holds 13 seats, the Country Liberal Party (CLP) 10 seats and there are 2 Independents (the Hon Loraine Braham, Member for Braiiling and Gerry Wood, Member for Nelson).

At the October 2003 by-election for the seat of Katherine, the ALP received a swing of 9.5% but failed to win the seat from the CLP. The result was considered a success for the Martin Labor Government and a positive indication mid election cycle.

This Ministerial reshuffle was the third reshuffle of the Martin Labor Government. The second reshuffle in October 2002 saw the entrance of Dr Chris Burns to cabinet and the elevation of Marion Scrymgour to Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training. At that time the Chief Minister also allocated the position of Treasurer to her Deputy Chief Minister, Syd Stirling.

As Chief Minister, Clare Martin has worked on developing a strong national profile. Most recently she has promoted the Territory's investment attraction campaign in Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide. The investment campaign is about promoting the Territory as a great place to live and invest with the grab – "Australia's new frontier, discover boundless opportunity".

The Government has been actively promoting Darwin as Australia's Asian Gateway and the "AustralAsia Trade Route - comprising the Adelaide to Darwin railway, the new East Arm Port and its associated Darwin Business Park. The development of Timor Sea oil and gas has also been a focus. Construction has commenced on the Conoco-Phillips LNG Plant and production is anticipated to begin in early 2006.

A major CBD redevelopment incorporating a convention centre and waterfront development is expected to begin construction before the next election. Three companies have been short-listed for what is known as the Darwin City Waterfront. The Government has committed \$100 million to the project.

## Shadow Ministry

Terry Mills was elected as the new Leader of the Opposition for the CLP in November 2003. He replaced the former Chief Minister, Denis Burke who lost Government to the ALP in 2001.

In early December 2003 he announced a reshuffle to the Shadow Ministerial responsibilities for the Opposition.

Member of Parliament	Shadow Ministry
Terry Mills MLA, Leader of the Opposition	Treasurer, Territory Development, Asian Relations and Trade, Railway and Racing, Gaming and Licensing
Richard Lim MLA, Deputy Leader of the Opposition	Transport and Infrastructure, Education, Employment and Training, Ethnic Affairs and Central Australia
Jodeen Carney MLA	Attorney-General and Justice and Women's Policy
Stephen Dunham MLA	Business, Industry and Resource Development, Defence Support and Essential Resources
Tim Baldwin MLA	Primary Industry and Fisheries, Environment and Heritage and Parks and Wildlife
Sue Carter MLA	Leader of Opposition Business, Health and Community Services, Senior Territorians and Arts and Museums
John Elferink MLA	Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Local Government, Indigenous Affairs, Community Development and Regional Development
Peter Maley MLA	Lands and Planning, Housing and Sport and Recreation
Katherine Miller MLA	Tourism, Corporate and Information Services, Communications and Youth Affairs

## Hawker Britton

Hawker Britton was founded in 1997 by Bruce Hawker and David Britton, former chief of staff and senior media adviser respectively to Premier Bob Carr. From its initial office in Sydney, has grown in the ensuing six years to have five offices in Australia; Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, and three located internationally; Washington, Wellington and London.

Hawker Britton is Australia's only national and international public affairs company providing advice on managing government relations, strategic communications and campaigns.

The firm boasts a wide range of clients in a variety of industries, including banking and finance, film and entertainment, information technology and telecommunications, primary industries, property development, health care and health technology, transport and infrastructure, construction and mining, water and environment, sport, hospitality and gaming.

Of Hawker Britton's current clients, 23 are in the *BRW Top 100* list of Australian companies and five are large multi-nationals.

### Government Relations

Key services in Government Relations include:

- High-level strategic advice on all areas of government
- Expertise in infrastructure developments
- Unrivalled experience in public-private partnerships

### Strategic Communications

Hawker Britton's Strategic Communications include:

- Media and issues management
- Crisis management
- Media training
- Stakeholder communications
- Reputation management

### Campaigns

Key Campaigning services include:

- Community campaigns and consultation
- Corporate and association elections
- Public affairs campaigns
- Corporate campaigns

Hawker Britton brings to the corporate boardroom a unique approach to strategy and campaigns, borne out of corporate and political experience. Our specialist consultants are drawn from the ranks of former ministers, members of parliament, chiefs of staff, and senior policy and media advisers. Corporate clients appreciate our political and strategic communications heritage and the value that it brings to corporate planning.

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