

Premier announces new Ministerial responsibilities

Jobs and public sector reform are high on the list of responsibilities new Ministers Steve Whan and John Robertson have been given by Premier Nathan Rees.

Mr Robertson will be sworn in as Minister for Corrective Services, Minister for Public Sector Reform and Special Minister of State. Mr Whan will be Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Small Business. Mr Rees said he expected the two Ministers to get straight to work. "These are two talented and clever additions to my Cabinet team," Mr Rees said. "Their work starts immediately. "Given the current economic circumstances, small business and public sector reform will be key to protecting jobs in NSW.

"John and Steve will be out of the blocks today working with me and the rest of my team.

"Their individual reputations for hard work precede them and I've asked them to redouble their efforts – the people of NSW expect nothing less."

NEW SOUTH WALES CABINET LIST OF MINISTERS

- The Honourable Nathan Rees MP
Premier, and Minister for the Arts
- The Honourable Carmel Mary Tebbutt MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, and Minister for Commerce
- The Honourable John Joseph Della Bosca MLC
Minister for Health, Minister for the Central Coast, and Vice President of the Executive Council
- The Honourable John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General, and Minister for Industrial Relations
- The Honourable Eric Michael Roozendaal MLC Treasurer
- The Honourable David Andrew Campbell MP
Minister for Transport, and Minister for the Illawarra
- The Honourable Verity Helen Firth MP
Minister for Education and Training, and Minister for Women
- The Honourable Kristina Kerscher Keneally MP
Minister for Planning, and Minister for Redfern Waterloo
- The Honourable Joseph Guerino Tripodi MP
Minister for Finance, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Regulatory Reform, and Minister for Ports and Waterways
- The Honourable Ian Michael Macdonald MLC

Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Energy, Minister for Mineral Resources, and Minister for State Development

- The Honourable Anthony Bernard Kelly MLC
Minister for Police, Minister for Lands, and Minister for Rural Affairs
- The Honourable Linda Jean Burney MP
Minister for Community Services
- The Honourable Kevin Patrick Greene MP
Minister for Gaming and Racing, and Minister for Sport and Recreation
- The Honourable Paul Gerard Lynch MP
Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
- The Honourable Barbara Mazzel Perry MP
Minister for Local Government, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health)
- The Honourable Graham James West MP
Minister for Juvenile Justice, Minister for Volunteering, Minister for Youth, and Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs
- The Honourable Michael John Daley MP
Minister for Roads
- The Honourable Phillip John Costa MP
Minister for Water, and Minister for Regional Development
- The Honourable Dianne Virginia Judge MP
Minister for Fair Trading, Minister for Citizenship, and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts
- The Honourable David Lawrence Borger MP
Minister for Housing, and Minister for Western Sydney
- The Honourable Jodi Leyanne McKay MP
Minister for Tourism, Minister for the Hunter, Minister for Science and Medical Research, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)
- The Honourable John Cameron Robertson MLC
Minister for Corrective Services, Minister for Public Sector Reform, and Special Minister of State
- The Honourable Steven James Robert Whan MP
Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Small Business



WORK STARTS ON \$65 MILLION M5 EAST TUNNEL FILTRATION PLANT

Premier Nathan Rees inspected the site where tunnelling work will begin on the \$65 million M5 East filtration plant to improve air quality in the tunnel.

Mr Rees said the plant is the first of its kind in Australia and is part of the NSW Government's air quality improvement plan for the M5 East. "I know local families have been concerned about pollution from the tunnel and the effect it can have on their community.

"That's why we are delivering this world class filtration plant."

Mr Rees said that \$40 million was allocated in the 2008-09 Budget to continue construction of the plant which is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

"The project has already created 300 jobs with an additional 200 to come on line at its peak."

A 100-tonne road header machine is tunnelling 280 metres between the air filtration plant on the eastern side of Bexley Road and the M5 East westbound tunnel around 500 metres before the exit. "This next stage of the work involves creating a tunnel approximately eight metres wide and five metres high connecting the M5 East tunnel to the filtration plant," Mr Rees said. "More than 11,000 cubic metres of material will be excavated, with work to be carried out five and a half days a week until around late May.

"We're committed to improving air quality in and around the M5 East Tunnel. "We have already put in place some immediate measures including the installation of a video detection system for illegal smoky trucks and 12 extra jet fans to improve ventilation.

"The air quality in the M5 East is monitored on a daily basis and it meets both the Department of Planning's and the World Health Organisation stringent goals."

Roads Minister Michael Daley joined the Premier today and said that underground tunnelling will take place 24 hours a day, while surface construction work will only be carried out during the day.

"The plant will extract around 50 per cent of air from the westbound tunnel and inject filtered air back into the tunnel," Mr Daley said.

"We'll be monitoring the trial closely to assess the cost of installing and operating such systems, as well as their effectiveness in removing pollutants from the tunnel air." The M5 East air filtration plant was approved in July 2007 after a rigorous and independent assessment process.

Premier welcomes Rudd Government Nation Building and Jobs Plan

NSW Premier, Nathan Rees welcomed the Rudd Government's \$42 billion Nation Building and Jobs Plan as a bold and powerful response to unprecedented economic circumstances.

"This is a bold and vital plan to help us fight our way out of the most challenging set of economic circumstances the world has faced since the Depression.

"Under the leadership of the Rudd Labor Government, we have an historic opportunity to work together as a nation to build our way out of these difficult times.

"This is a national effort as we fight this war on unemployment.

"We stand with the Federal Government - ready to spend, ready to build.

"The NSW Government will fast-track the delivery of the projects announced by the Prime Minister.

"Today's announcement does not replace any commitments made by the NSW Government.

"Our current \$56 billion investment in infrastructure over the next four years will provide 150,000 jobs each



year.

"This stands side by side with Kevin Rudd's announcement today.

"This package shows the full force of the national government delivering practical solutions in tough economic times. "It will boost jobs and deliver for local communities with new school

halls, libraries, science labs, classrooms, road projects and major public housing projects."

Mr Rees said tax relief measures for businesses adjusting to these tough economic times are extremely welcome.

"And of course one off cash payments to working families and farmers doing it tough will help pay some bills and make household budgeting a little easier.

"The Rudd Government's package will create and protect jobs, provide much needed relief for families and businesses and provide a shot in the arm to economies at every single level in this country – local, state and national.

"The NSW Government will work shoulder to shoulder with the Commonwealth to help stimulate the economy and protect jobs.

"Unlike under the Howard Government, there is no partisan point-scoring.

"We are signed up to work together for the benefit of the whole country.

"These are unprecedented times and only a united response with strong and bold national leadership will cut it."