



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Culture and the Arts**
State Records Office of Western Australia



A Guide to the 1983 State Cabinet Records

Prepared by: The State Records Office of Western Australia

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Introduction

Each year the State Records Office of WA (SRO) marks the release of the State Cabinet records from their 30 year access restriction in time for Western Australia Day by creating an online Guide to these records. This year's Guide includes information from Cabinet minutes and decisions from 1983, concentrating on those records documenting the beginning of Brian Burke's Labor Government which came to power at the State election on 19 February 1983. Last year's Guide documented the 13 months of the O'Connor Government until its last Cabinet meeting on 14 February 1983.

Included in this Guide is an overview of the issues and events encountered by WA State Government in 1983 that has been prepared by Emeritus Professor David Black AM, Chairperson of WA Parliament's History Advisory Committee.

State Cabinet records are historically significant documents which reveal the decisions made by the government of the day. These unique records are the primary source documents for information about the issues raised at Cabinet meetings. This Guide is provided to assist the Western Australian community access these records.

The State Cabinet records, 10 January 1983 – 19 December 1983, comprise State Cabinet Minutes and Decisions (ref: Series 1228).

The records are held by the SRO, the authority responsible for identifying, managing, preserving and providing the community with access to the State's archives. These records are available through the SRO's Search Room situated on the Ground Floor of the Alexander Library Building, James Street Mall, Perth Cultural Centre. The SRO Search Room is open Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 4.30pm.

For further details about accessing original Cabinet Minutes and Decisions, please contact the SRO on ph. 9427 3600 or email sro@sro.wa.gov.au.

Overview

The main set of records is called 'Cabinet Minutes and Decisions'. State Cabinet decisions include agendas and submissions to Cabinet and are listed chronologically.

The nature of recording Cabinet minutes and decisions has changed over time. In more recent times, the documentation associated with a Cabinet decision tends to be more extensive. In 1983, the documentation and supporting papers associated with a Cabinet deliberation was attached to the vast majority of the decisions. Later in the year a pro forma 'Cabinet Decisions' sheet was attached to many of the topics discussed to enable the subject, decision (approval or otherwise) of Cabinet, and "additional comments that qualify Cabinet's decisions" could be clearly and easily recorded.

Unlike the release of Cabinet papers at the Commonwealth level, where records comprising more sensitive information can be embargoed well beyond the restriction access period for the remaining records, all of the State Cabinet records for Western Australia are released for public access 30 years after the records were created.

Description of the 1983 State Cabinet Records

Cabinet Minutes and Decisions

State Cabinet Minutes and Decisions are the original, primary source documents that provide a record of government decisions made at Cabinet meetings. These documents contain the names of the Ministers present and absent at each meeting, copies of submissions to Cabinet (including ministerial recommendations), supporting reports, summaries or reviews for these submissions, and a record of relevant decisions, approvals, deferrals and rejections by State Cabinet.

Location: State Records Office of Western Australia

Reference: Series 1228, Consignment 2884 (files 1982/434 v3 - 1984/026 v1).

Quantity: 28 files, 2.4 linear metres

Series 1228	File number	Beginning – End Dates
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/434 v3	10/01/1983- 17/01/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1982/434 v4	24/01/1983 -14/02/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/029 v1	25/02/1983 - 21/03/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/029 v2	28/03/1983 - 06/04/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/029 v3	18/04/1983 - 02/05/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/029 v4	09/05/1983 - 16/05/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/103 v1	23/05/1983 - 30/05/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/103 v2	07/06/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/103 v3	13/06/1983 - 20/06/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/103 v4	27/06/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/160 v1	04/07/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/160 v2	11/07/1983 - 18/07/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/160 v3	25/07/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/160 v4	01/08/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/198 v1	08/08/1983 - 15/08/1983

Decisions		
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/198 v2 Prt1	22/08/1983 - 04/09/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/198 v2 Prt2	11/09/1983 - 19/09/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/198 v3	26/09/1983 - 04/10/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/198 v4	10/10/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/244 v1	17/10/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/244 v2	24/10/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/244 v3	31/10/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/244 v4	07/11/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/312 v1	14/11/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/312 v2	21/11/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/312 v3	28/11/1983 - 06/12/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1983/312 v4	12/12/1983
Cabinet Minutes and Decisions	1984/026 v1	19/12/1983

Events and Issues in WA Politics in 1983

By Emeritus Professor David Black AM, Parliamentary Fellow (History) and Chairperson of the Parliamentary History Advisory Committee of the Parliament of Western Australia

The Cabinet Minutes for 1983 are highly significant as they cover a breadth of new initiatives proposed by the newly elected Labor Government. At 36, Brian Burke was the State's third youngest Premier and one of his ministers David Parker (aged 29) was, and still is, the youngest member ever to hold ministerial office in Western Australia. The election of the new government was also paralleled by the election of the Hawke Labor Government in Canberra though this did not prevent the Burke government from seeking and obtaining special help from the Commonwealth at a Premiers Conference to help with burdens of current and capital expenditure

Interestingly, the Parliament only met relatively briefly before July to deal with the price control legislation promised in its election platform. This was delivered in the form of the Prevention of Excessive Prices Bill providing for the appointment of a Prices Commissioner overseeing a comprehensive system of monitoring and reporting price in trends. The life of the legislation was limited to the period in which a government-imposed wages freeze affecting higher paid state public servants and those on state awards was in operation.

During the course of the Governor's Speech in March the government had also foreshadowed electoral reform as a priority. This was discussed in Cabinet on several occasions between March and November. Many government initiatives were not successful including a proposal for the adoption of state wide proportional representation for Legislative Council elections and legislation to limit the power of the Legislative Council to reject budgets (a live issue in the wake of the 1975 constitutional crisis).

Proposals for the abolition of capital punishment in Western Australia, at a time when no convicted person had been hanged for nearly 20 years were discussed in Cabinet. Although the issue remained unresolved in 1983, it passed through both houses in 1984 following a decision by the opposition to allow a free vote on the issue.

In the area of law reform the proposed repeal of the controversial Section 54b of the Police Act which greatly restricted the opportunity for groups to organise public protests, was discussed. The measure was instituted by Sir Charles Court and was finally repealed in 1984 and replaced by the Public Meetings and Processions Act.

In May, Cabinet discussed and the government then announced that it would honour one of its most controversial proposals to reopen the Perth–Fremantle railway line

which had been closed by the Court Government. This required significant initial expenditure for the repair and refurbishing of the line and its facilities but the move attracted support from a number of quarters.

Teachers' salaries were on the cabinet agenda in from April onwards with the effect that in June the Education Minister promised wage parity for WA teachers with NSW from the beginning of 1984. This move had the effect of forestalling likely industrial action.

Issues related to the Environment were also discussed on several occasions including a lengthy series of meetings to discuss the establishment of a single State Water Authority. The necessary legislation was subsequently passed in 1984 and the Authority established in 1985.

As a result of cabinet discussions in June and August a trial period of daylight saving was instituted

Towards the end of the year forward looking cabinet discussions included a study of Light Rail Passenger vehicle transport, the Western Australian Institute of Sport pilot scheme (the Institute was founded in 1983 and from 1986 was based at Challenge Stadium) and a Bike Plan for Perth.

Events that Made the News in 1983

In international news, the inaugural flight of the Space Shuttle Challenger took place on 4 April. Margaret Thatcher was re-elected to government in a landslide election in June. Benigno S. Aquino Jr., the political rival of Philippines President Marcos, was assassinated upon his return to Manila on 21 August. Later in August South Korean Boeing 747 jetliner bound for Seoul apparently strayed into Soviet airspace and was shot down by a Soviet fighter; all 269 aboard were killed. On 23 October a terrorist explosion killed 237 U.S. Marines in Beirut and later that month, U.S. and Caribbean allies invaded Grenada.

In Australia in 1983, the destructive Ash Wednesday bushfires caused the deaths of 75 people in February. In March Malcolm Fraser's coalition government lost the 1983 federal election to Bob Hawke's Labor party and later that month the Prince and Princess of Wales, with their 9 month old son Prince William, arrived in Alice Springs at the commencement of an Australian tour. On 1 July 1983, the High Court overturned a Tasmanian government decision to build the Franklin Dam. In September Alan Bond's Australia II won the America's Cup in Newport, Rhode Island. In December 1983 the Australian dollar was floated for the first time.

The Album Thriller by Michael Jackson was released in 1983 and the title song was the basis of a 13 minute video. Featuring unique choreography, 'werenats', zombies and Vincent Price's voice, it was MTV's first world premiere video. Return of the Jedi was the highest grossing film and the Australian film Careful He Might Hear You won the AFI Award for Best Film.

In 1983, the average weekly earnings were \$335 and a washing machine would set you back \$529.

A home computer with 33 megabytes of hard disk cost \$4600, around a quarter of your annual income. A brand new Datsun Bluebird was almost \$10,000 and a 48cm colour TV plus a top loading video cassette recorder were \$1299. If you weren't interested in the 'Kenny Everett Video Show', 'Simon Townsend's Wonderworld' or 'A Country Practice' on the three available television stations, it would cost you \$10 to become a lifetime member of your local video store.

A hilltop house in Fremantle with harbour views was \$74,000 while a house in Karrinyup was \$185,000. The interest on a mortgage however, was likely to be around 13%¹.

¹ 1983 prices sourced from *The West Australian* newspaper

State Cabinet Deliberations in 1983

The following selection of notable issues were raised in the Western Australian State Cabinet records from 1st January to 31st December 1983, concentrating on those issues considered by the new Labor Government elected on 19th February 1983. The description of the issues is generally taken directly from wording used in the Cabinet Minutes and Decisions, and the dates shown below are the dates when these issues were deliberated by State Cabinet as shown in the records. The number of submissions/issues is shown after the date when these were considered more than once at a State Cabinet meeting.

Drought

17 Jan, 24 Jan, 25 Feb, 16 May, 7 Jun, 5/6 Dec 1983

A perennial issue for any Western Australian Government, in 1983 State Cabinet considered the effects of drought on Pastoral Stations, fodder and agistment subsidies in drought declared areas and in December 1983 considered a review of drought policy which recommended that the Federal Government “be requested to accept any (drought) declarations that are made as qualifying under ‘Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements’”.

Instant Lotteries

17 Jan, 1 Feb, 8 Mar, 28 Mar, 4 Sept 1983

Monies from the Instant Lottery were divided equally between sports and culture and there had been concern regarding some of the awards made to the Arts. On 8 March Cabinet approved a recommendation to temporarily halt the making of grants until a special committee “meet and review guidelines and procedures in order to ensure that the best possible use is made for available funds.”

Harding River Dam

1 Feb, 8 Mar, 2 May, 7 Nov, 14 Nov 1983

The previous government’s project to build this dam in the Pilbara to supply water to Roebourne and Karratha had been opposed by local Aboriginal and environmental groups. Upon election of the new Labor Government, State Cabinet reviewed this project, acting on a submission from Peter Dowding, the new Minister for Mines, Fuel & Energy. In November it considered a report from the Harding River Working Group to compensate local Aboriginal people with the provision of funds for “a Cultural Facility” and “upgrading of an access road”.

Price Control Legislation

25 Feb, 8 Mar, 14 Mar, 31 Oct, 21 Nov 1983

One of the first issues tackled by the new State Cabinet was an undertaking to introduce legislation “to control excessive or unjustifiable price increases” and a draft

Prevention of Excessive Prices Bill was considered by Cabinet and later introduced to Parliament, the legislation ceasing operation on 31 December 1983. In November Cabinet approved amendments to the Act to extend price controls “to petroleum products and petroleum services”. In November the Minister for Consumer Affairs recommended that “pressure be applied on the Federal Government to amend its legislation to close the loophole that enables Pharmacists to charge (a) higher price” in excess of the patient contribution under the National Health Act. Cabinet deferred a decision on this and requested the “Attorney General to seek advice in respect of Commonwealth Powers.”

Electoral Reform

8 Mar, 21 Mar, 18 Apr, 23 May, 27 June, 4 July (2), 18 July, 22 Aug, 10 Oct, 14 Nov, 21 Nov 1983

Labor’s 1983 Election Policy promised a new Electoral Act, the first action being to appoint a working party to work towards a new Act, to consider joint State and Commonwealth electoral rolls and changing “the requirement that certain categories of voters have their signatures witnessed by certain specific persons.” On 23 May Cabinet discussed 4 year Parliamentary terms and on 27 June considered proposals to redistribute Legislative Assembly seats on the basis of “dividing the total enrolment of the State by the number of Districts.” On 18 July plans for reform of the Legislative Council were presented, stating that at the next State election 11 Legislative Councillors “will represent the whole State ... and at the following election all 22 will be affected.” On 14 November Cabinet approved the drafting of a Bill to amend the Electoral Act “to remove all differentiation between qualified Aboriginal electors and other electors” so that “in future Aboriginal people will stand before the electoral law on the same footing as other ... electors.”

Bond Corporation

8 Mar 1983

A confidential memorandum to the Premier from Terry Burke conveyed the desire of Mr Tony Oates of the Bond Corporation “to meet with Cabinet to discuss the future involvement of the Corporation with the Government”.

Environmental Protection

8 Mar, 16 May, 23 May, 27 June (2), 4 Oct, 19 Dec (2) 1983

State Cabinet rescinded a decision of the previous government and now accepted all recommendations on Conservation Reserves in WA put forward by the Environmental Protection Authority. In May and June Cabinet approved C Class reserve status for Mt Lesueur, areas along the South Coast near Albany, Two Peoples Bay and Ledge Point, and Lake Moore. On 19 December State Cabinet approved Barrow Island remaining “a Class A reserve for the purpose of conservation of flora and fauna ... subject to the rights of Western Australian Petroleum as lessee”.

Nursing

8 Mar (2), 21 Mar, 7 June 1983

On 8 March Cabinet discussed Nursing roster and shift work disputes and as a result the Premier strongly recommended that only the Minister for Industrial Relations should deal with these matters because other “Ministers are intruding into the area of industrial relations” which could “result in a negative ... fragmented approach to an area which requires skill and effective coordination.” In June Cabinet approved to maintain a subsidy to St John of God Hospital for nurse education, stating that this would also be reviewed if there were an increase the number of student places for nursing at WAIT.

Homosexuality Private Members Bill

14 Mar 1983

Attorney General Joe Berinson recommended to Cabinet that Hon. Bob Hetherington MLC be invited to prepare a draft Bill for submission to a Cabinet sub-committee, to decriminalise homosexuality between consenting adults in private.

Anti-Smoking and Health Promotion

21 Mar, 13 June, 25 July, 22 Aug, 4 Sept, 4 Oct, 10 Oct 1983

In March Cabinet approved the Minister for Health to draft a Bill to prohibit the advertising of smoking and tobacco products. In June it approved a 35% tax increase on cigarettes and a big increase the penalty for selling cigarettes to minors. Anti-smoking campaigns and health promotion measures were also considered by Cabinet in 1983 and on 4 September it considered a proposal to spend “a maximum of \$2 million” in 1983/84 on an anti-smoking campaign.

Bunbury 2000

21 Mar, 18 April 1983; Austmark Office Building and Hotel Complex 28 Nov, 30 Nov, 5/6 Dec 1983

In March Premier Burke informed ministers of “the urgency in developing guidelines for the implementation of ‘Bunbury 2000’ Policy” calling for a “meeting in Bunbury of six Ministers and Premier, plus departmental heads, on Friday 22nd April.” The plan was to establish the South West Development Authority as “a high-powered agency to boost development in the Bunbury region”. On 30 November Cabinet held a special meeting at Parliament House to discuss plans for the “Austmark Office Building and Hotel Complex” in Bunbury as part of the Government’s Bunbury 2000 strategy.

Casinos and Gaming

28 Mar, 16 May 1983

Cabinet approved a recommendation from Hon. David Parker, the Minister for Employment and Administrative services to form a Cabinet sub-committee and Government Casino Advisory Committee to “establish guidelines and formulate legislative procedures for the establishment and control of casino operations” in WA.

Teachers’ Salaries

6 Apr, 2 May, 7 June, 13 June; Parenting Leave 5/6 and 19 Dec 1983

In response to a letter from the Teachers’ Union to the Minister for Education, Cabinet decided that a proposed increase in Teachers’ wages “was outside the guidelines of the current restraint on wages and cannot be implemented” and that funds for 350 additional teachers weren’t available. But a later request from the Minister for Education for Cabinet for 50 additional primary school teachers was approved, and the establishment “of a salary nexus between the rates of paid to teachers in Western Australia and their counterparts in New South Wales” was deferred following further discussions with the Teachers’ Union. On 19 December a Cabinet decision on proposed Parenting Leave for Teachers was deferred “until such time as Minister for Education is able to provide details regarding the justification for such proposal.”

Establishment of a Single State Water Authority

14 Mar, 18 Apr, 14 Nov, 19 Nov (3), 5/6 Dec 1983 (3)

A steering committee guiding the merger of State Water Authorities was formed by State Cabinet. Throughout 1983 this involved deliberations about the merging of Metropolitan Water Authority with elements of the Public Works Department concerned with water matters. This included discussion about the position and possible abolition of regional Water Boards. Cabinet considered this proposal carefully, e.g. on 14 November Cabinet deferred a decision on the Bunbury, Busselton and Harvey Water Boards “pending consultation with Members of Parliament for Bunbury and Mitchell”. On 5 December State Cabinet deferred a decision to a Cabinet sub-committee about the future of the North Eastern Wheatbelt Water Supply Scheme.

BP Food Plus Stores

18 Apr 1983

Cabinet resolved to oppose the development of BP Food Plus and other convenience stores in established urban areas.

Foreign Ownership of Land

18 Apr, 25 July, 5/6 Dec, 19 Dec 1983

In April, the Minister for Agriculture, reported that on a recent visit to Singapore and Malaysia the attitude of the new Federal and WA State Governments to foreign investment and foreign ownership of land was raised and recommended that the Premier raise with the Prime Minister “the need to develop parameters of foreign ownership of rural land in Australia ... applicable for all Australian States.” In July the Minister for Lands recommended that the “request to sell to the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation” of the portion of Rosewood Station in WA be refused. In December Cabinet approved the relaxation of foreign ownership policy guidelines to enable the sale of Calwynyardah Station.

Perth/Fremantle Rail Service Re-opening

2 May, 7 June, 18 July

The newly elected Labor Government was committed to the reintroduction of the Perth to Fremantle rail service. In May the Minister for Transport, presented a report from the Coordinator General of Transport, recommending that the passenger rail service be reintroduced but also upgraded over time, also recommending that the Perth to Fremantle rail service recommence from 31 July 1983. In June it was agreed that the official re-opening ceremonies take place on Friday 29 July to allow “greater participation by the business community” in the event.

Aboriginal Land Inquiry

9 May (2), 11 July, 18 July, 10 Oct 1983

The new Labor Government was committed “to holding an Inquiry into the most appropriate means of granting land rights to Aboriginal people” in WA. In May, the Aboriginal Affairs Minister, asked State Cabinet to endorse a framework and timetable for the Inquiry requiring it to report to the government “no later than June 1984.” Paul Seaman QC was to lead the Inquiry, which reported in 1984.

Beazley inquiry

9 May 1983

State Cabinet approved funding for “substantial resources” for an Inquiry into Education, chaired by Mr K E Beazley AO, which had been a commitment at the February state election. The 474 page report of the committee into WA’s pre-tertiary education was released in 1984.

Wittenoom

9 May, 29 Aug, 19 Sept 1983

In May the Ministers for Health and the North West were asked to prepare “a policy paper for Cabinet to consider whether the policies of the previous government should be continued with respect of Wittenoom”. On 29 August Cabinet considered a

comprehensive report from a Departmental Sub-Committee on Wittenoom, which made various recommendations including that the Government acknowledge the hazards to health in Wittenoom, accepting “that the health hazard cannot satisfactorily and economically be removed” and “providing practical support and substantial financial support ... to enable them to move to another location”.

Fremantle Gas and Coke Company Limited

16 May 1983

State Cabinet approved in principle to government acquisition of equity in Fremantle Gas and Coke and for the Treasurer and Minister for Fuel and Energy “to instruct the (State Electricity) Commission to retain the service of a suitable financial institution to advise as to the desirability of acquisition of shareholding” in the company.

Police Act – Repeal of Section 54B

7 June 1983

In accordance with the Government’s election policy State Cabinet approved the repeal of Section 54B of the Police Act which required police permission to hold public meetings and processions. In repealing Section 54 B, the decision was also to enact separate legislation to ensure some regulation of public meetings and processions.

Abolition of Death Penalty/Capital Punishment

13 June, 18 July 1983

State Cabinet approved moves to abolish the death penalty which was formally removed from WA statutes with the passage of the Acts Amendment (Abolition of Capital Punishment) Act in 1984.

Daylight Saving Legislation

27 June, 29 Aug 1983

State Cabinet approved the drafting of a Bill to enable the introduction of a trial period of Daylight Saving in October 1983, to be followed by a Referendum, “so that if the majority of electors favour Daylight Saving, it should be continued.”

WA Tourism Commission

8 Aug, 24 Oct, 12 Dec, 19 Dec 1983

Due to “overwhelming support within the industry to the notion of government revising its role in the tourism industry” at the “Tourism Forum 1983”, the Cabinet approved the establishment of the Western Australian Tourism Commission to “be operational as of January 1st, 1984.” On 19 December Mr L Hitchen was appointed the Chairman of the Commission.

Financial Institutions Duty

8 Aug, 4 Oct, 14 Nov 1983

Financial Institutions Duty (FID) was a duty levied on deposits to bank accounts and term deposits. The tax was introduced in the different states between 1982 and 1992 and in 1983 legislation was drafted to introduce FID in WA, with a range of exemptions being discussed and approved by Cabinet before its introduction. FID was abolished in all states from 1 July 2001 as part of the package of reforms for the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Lead-Free Petrol and Motor Vehicle Emission Controls

15 Aug, 22 Aug 1983

The need for the provision of lead free petrol had been discussed at the national level since 1981, with 1985 being an agreed target date for its introduction. State Cabinet initially deferred a decision on legislating for the wide availability of 91.5 octane lead free petrol and improved exhaust emission controls, later approving the Minister for Transport to draft relevant legislation.

Adoption of Children

22 Aug, 10 Oct, 31 Oct, 21 Nov 1983

State Cabinet discussed a proposal for the establishment of a contact register for adoptees and on 31 October approved the amendments to the Adoption of Children Act to “only allow persons and agencies authorised by” the Minister for Community Services “to take part in arrangements or negotiations for the adoption of a child.”

State Participation in the Argyle Diamond Project

26 Sept, 4 Oct 1983

Contingent on various issues being addressed, such as the State Government receiving “an advance payment of royalties of \$50,000,000” and the purchasing of “all shares in Northern Mining Corporation to acquire 5% participating interest in the Argyle Diamond Mines Joint Venture and Ashton Exploration Joint Venture”, Cabinet approved State participation in this project.

Purchase of Northern Mining Corporation

4 Oct 1983

The Crown Solicitor was asked for an opinion “as to whether there was any legal impediment to the Government purchasing the issued capital of Northern Mining Corporation” and the advice received was that the Government was prohibited from “owning a trading concern unless it is prescribed in the Act or authorised by other legislation.” Therefore Cabinet approval was sought for the preparation of a draft Bill, also leaving the decision “to the discretion of the Premier in consultation with the Deputy Premier and the Attorney General.”

Australian Children's Television Foundation Funding

4 Oct, 19 Dec 1983

Upon Sir James Cruthers' resignation in October, State Cabinet approved the appointment of Mrs Janet Holmes a Court to represent WA on the Australian Children's Television Foundation. On 19 December State Cabinet approved a "third and final" grant of \$52,600 to the Foundation.

Light Rail Passenger Vehicle Study

7 Nov 1983

It was reported to Cabinet that the previous Government directed Westrail to conduct a study into the use "of diesel powered light rail vehicles for use of Perth's suburban railway network." The Minister for Transport recommended that the recommendations of the study be accepted and that the report be tabled in Parliament. He also recommended that as a follow up "...an examination be undertaken into all factors with the objective of selecting the most appropriate railcar for the Perth suburban railway network", which Cabinet approved.

Western Australian Development Corporation Bill

7 Nov, 14 Nov 1983

On 7 November Cabinet authorised the drafting of a Bill to establish the WA Development Corporation to "promote the development of economic activity in Western Australia". Brian Burke, as Premier and Treasurer cited "the establishment and operation of the Corporation as a matter of priority."

Visits of Nuclear Powered Warships to WA Ports

14 Nov, 21 Nov 1983

State Cabinet was informed by the Minister for the Environment, that "the arrangements for safeguarding public safety during visits of nuclear warships have always been very thorough in this State" and that no further action was needed by Cabinet on this issue.

WA Institute of Sport Pilot Scheme 1984

12 Dec 1983

State Cabinet approved "the concept and establishment of a WAIS pilot scheme to be implemented in 1984" with the aim to develop young WA sports men and women, preparing "them for membership of the National Institute of Sport".

Members of State Cabinet from 25 February 1983

The Australian Labor Party took office after the State general elections of 19 February 1983, defeating Ray O'Connor's Liberal Party - National Country Party government after 9 years of coalition rule. Brian Burke's Labor Ministry was sworn in on 25 February and remained in place until 23 December, except for additional responsibilities assigned to Hon. H.D. Evans M.L.A on 25 March, assisting the Premier in the area of Forests, and the abolition of the historic Chief Secretary's position on 22 April, placing the responsibility for Prisons under the Attorney General. A re-shuffle of responsibilities within State Cabinet occurred on 23 December 1983, as a result of recommendations coming from a review of the machinery of government and concerns about interdepartmental conflicts in the mining and resources development areas.²

Burke Ministry (from 25 February 1983)

The Hon. Brian Thomas BURKE, M.L.A
Premier; Treasurer; Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Social Development;
Minister for Forests; Tourism; Women's Interests

The Hon. Malcolm John BRYCE, B.A., M.L.A
Deputy Premier; Minister for Economic Development and Technology

The Hon. Desmond Keith DANS, M.L.C
Minister for Industrial Relations; Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Hon. Joseph Max BERINSON, LL.B., M.L.C
Attorney-General; Minister for Inter-Governmental Relations and Defence Liaison;
Chief Secretary (until 22 April 1983); Prisons (from 22 April 1983); Minister Assisting
the Treasurer

The Hon. Arthur Raymond TONKIN, B.A., Dip. Ed., M.L.A
Minister for Water Resources; Consumer Affairs; Parliamentary Electoral Reform;
and Leader of the House

The Hon. Jeffrey Phillip CARR, B.A., M.L.A
Minister for Police and Emergency Services; Local Government

The Hon. Ronald DAVIES, M.L.A.
Minister for the Environment; Multi-cultural and Ethnic Affairs; the Arts

² *Burke Ministry (Western Australia)*, Wikipedia. Accessed 17 February 2014.
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burke_Ministry_\(Western_Australia\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burke_Ministry_(Western_Australia))

The Hon. Hywel David EVANS, M.L.A
Minister for Agriculture; Fisheries and Wildlife; and Minister Assisting the Minister for
Forests (from 25 March 1983)

The Hon. Robert John PEARCE, B.A., Dip. Ed., M.L.A
Minister for Education

The Hon. Barry James HODGE, M.L.A
Minister for Health

The Hon. Kenneth Finlay McIVER, M.L.A
Minister for Works; Lands and Surveys

The Hon. David Charles PARKER, B.A., M.L.A
Minister for Employment and Administrative Services; Planning; and Minister
Assisting the Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Social Development

The Hon. Julian Fletcher GRILL, LL. B., M.L.A
Minister for Transport; Regional Development; the North West; Minister with special
responsibility for 'Bunbury 2000'

The Hon. Keith James WILSON, M.L.A
Minister for Housing; Youth and Community Services with special responsibility for
Aboriginal Affairs; Sport and Recreation

The Hon. Peter M'Callum DOWDING, LL.B., M.L.C
Minister for Mines; Fuel and Energy

Terence Joseph BURKE Esq., M.L.A
Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet

Burke Ministry (from 23 December 1983)

The Hon. Brian Thomas BURKE, M.L.A
Premier; Treasurer; Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Social Development;
Minister for Forests; Tourism; Women's Interests

The Hon. Malcolm John BRYCE, B.A., M.L.A
Deputy Premier; Minister for Industrial Development; Minister for Technology;
Minister for Defence Liaison

The Hon. Desmond Keith DANS, M.L.C
Minister for Industrial Relations; Minister for Administrative Services; Leader of the
Government in the Legislative Council

Hon. Joseph Max BERINSON, LL.B., M.L.C
Attorney-General; Minister for Budget Management; Minister for Prisons

The Hon. Arthur Raymond TONKIN, B.A., Dip. Ed., M.L.A
Minister for Water Resources; Parliamentary Electoral Reform; Leader of the House

The Hon. Jeffrey Phillip CARR, B.A., M.L.A
Minister for Police and Emergency Services; Local Government

The Hon. Ronald DAVIES, M.L.A.
Minister for the Environment; Multi-cultural and Ethnic Affairs; the Arts

The Hon. Hywel David EVANS, M.L.A
Minister for Agriculture; Fisheries and Wildlife; Minister Assisting the Minister for
Forests

The Hon. Robert John PEARCE, B.A., Dip. Ed., M.L.A
Minister for Education

The Hon. Barry James HODGE, M.L.A
Minister for Health

The Hon. Kenneth Finlay McIVER, M.L.A
Minister for Works; Lands and Surveys

The Hon. David Charles PARKER, B.A., M.L.A
Minister for Minerals and Energy; Minister Assisting the Minister Co-ordinating
Economic and Social Development

The Hon. Julian Fletcher GRILL, LL. B., M.L.A
Minister for Transport; Minister for Regional Development; the North West; Minister
with special responsibility for 'Bunbury 2000'

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The Hon. Peter M'Callum DOWDING, LL.B., M.L.C
Minister for Employment and Training; Minister of Planning; Consumer Affairs

Terence Joseph BURKE Esq., M.L.A
Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet