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1987: The Year of New Directions

RELEASE OF 1987 NSW CABINET PAPERS



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1987: The Year of New Directions

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Between 1947 and 1987, the average annual increase of immigrants into Australia was over 85,000. In only 40 years, Australia's population more than doubled from 7.6 to over 16 million. Sydney's metropolitan population had jumped to around 3.5 million; New South Wales had a total of about 5.7 million people.

Almost half of this growth was a result of immigration.¹ And around 45 per cent of these people came from countries including Italy (approximately 9 per cent), Greece (over 5 per cent), Yugoslavia (over 4 per cent), The Netherlands (almost 4 per cent), Poland (2.5 per cent), Germany (3.5 per cent), Vietnam (2 per cent) – brought about by the end of the Vietnam War – and Lebanon (1.5 per cent).²

Immigration transformed Australian society and culture and brought about multiculturalism as a settlement policy and ideology. And it led to the adoption of the theme 'Living Together' for the 1988 Australian Bicentenary. Population growth, too, put pressure on other things including traditional forms of housing – specifically the quarter acre block.

The 1980s began in economic recession, was marred by high – especially youth – unemployment (which was a critical factor in bringing down the Fraser Liberal Federal Government) and ended in recession after the stock market crash in October 1987. Greed was a key theme of the eighties. For politicians, it was also a decade of balancing conflicting agendas: renewing run-down infrastructure – including cultural facilities and transport – embracing tourism as a key economic driver and seeking development opportunities – through state authorities such as the New South Wales Investment Corporation³ – recognising the importance of natural and built heritage, moving forward with multiculturalism and dealing with issues of equity and diversity.

Historians, journalists and other writers have seen the decade in various lights. Frank Bongiorno, Professor of History at the Australian National University, has noted that:

The journalist Paul Kelly famously claimed that the eighties saw the end of the Australian settlement, the suite of ideas and politics that had underpinned the nation from the early twentieth century. White Australia, Industry Protection, Wage Arbitration, State Paternalism, and Imperial Benevolence... all... broken by the end of the 1980s... another journalist, George Megalogenis, saw the eighties less as an end

¹ Charles Price, 'Immigration and Ethnic Origin', in Wray Vamplew (ed), *Australians: Historical Statistics*, Fairfax, Syme and Weldon Associates, Sydney, 1987, pp6-7. See also Jock Collins, *Migrant Hands in a Distant Land: Australia's post-war immigration*, Pluto Press, Leichhardt, 1991.

² Mark Anderson and Paul Ashton, *Australian History and Citizenship*, Macmillan Education Australia, South Yarra, 2000, p223.

³ See, for example, NSW Investment Corporation (Amendment) Bill, Cabinet Meeting, 19 May 1987, item 8.

than as a beginning, a prelude to... the vindication of twenty-five years of policy reform that came with the economy's astonishing resilience during the global financial crisis of 2008.⁴

Whatever one's perspective, this was a time of change, and politically a time of 'crash or crash through'.

Dual Occupancy and the Quarter-acre Block

The great Australian dream of owning a family home on a quarter-acre block emerged after the First World War. By the late 1940s more than half of NSW's people were living in suburbs. (This did not happen in the USA until the 1990s.) The post-World War Two period saw ever-growing numbers of families move into Sydney's outer suburbs in search of affordable housing and outdoor living.⁵

The dream, if not a little tarnished, remains. But on 4 May 1987 a decision made by the NSW Cabinet was to see a radical change in direction for the provision of housing in the State. On that day, Cabinet approved a proposal to introduce 'more flexible controls' around the development of single dwellings in the greater Sydney region.⁶ This ushered in dual occupancy which was to evolve into urban consolidation, a process involving significant increases in both population and housing densities.

During the 1980s metropolitan Sydney experienced massive hikes in land prices, land shortages and a crisis – particularly in the outer suburbs – of infrastructure and services. The median cost of a house in Sydney, for example, rose from \$50,700 in 1979 to \$120,025 in 1987 (and then to \$170,850 two years later).⁷ Dual occupancy was the first step in attempting to remedy this situation.⁸

A Cabinet Minute outlined the advantages of dual occupancy: it would 'encourage the fuller use of existing services and community facilities and... enable the provision of more accommodation'.⁹ Controls had been introduced in 1980 and 1981 for greater Sydney – including the Blue Mountains, Wollondilly, Gosford and Wyong – to allow for an additional dwelling on single housing blocks. But these required one home to be owner occupied. This provision was to be removed. But the Minute advised that this was 'controversial because it could increase the number of rental dwellings in a residential area. 'There is a common perception', the advice went on to say, 'that rented houses downgrade single-dwelling residential areas because of lack of attention to maintenance.'

Opposition to the proposal came from local councils wanting to keep low-density housing. And the State Government received 125 private submissions – 61 in favour and 64 against

⁴ Frank Bongiorno, *The Eighties: The Decade that Transformed Australia*, Black Inc, Carlton, 2015, pxi.

⁵ See, for example, I. Burnley, P. Murphy and A. Jenner, 'Selecting Suburbia: Residential Relocation in Outer Sydney', *Urban Studies*, 1977, vol 34, no 7, pp1109-1127 and K. Mee, 'Prosperity and the Suburban Dream: quality of life and affordability in western Sydney', *Australian Geographer*, vol 33, no 3, 2002, pp337-351.

⁶ Decision of Cabinet, 'Proposed Sydney Regional Environmental Plan Dual Occupancy', 4 May 1987, Cabinet Minute no 76-87, 23 May 1987, SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14571].

⁷ Peer Abelson and Demi Chung, 'Housing Prices in Australia: 1970-2003', available at http://www.econ.mq.edu.au/Econ_docs/research_papers2/2004_research_papers/Abelson_9_04.pdf viewed 10 June 2017, p8.

⁸ Paul Ashton and Robert Freestone, 'Planning', *Dictionary of Sydney*, 2008, <http://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/planning>, viewed 10 June 2017.

⁹ Cabinet Minute no 76-87, 23 May 1987, SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14571].

(22 of these from the Central Coast and 12 from the Avalon/Palm Beach area). But densification targets were to become the order of the day as the State Government embraced urban consolidation as the principal solution to suburban sprawl.¹⁰ 'What began with an enabling of dual occupancy', Ashton and Freestone have written, '... developed into a multifaceted program targeting rezoning of surplus government land, higher dwelling density targets for new release areas, and multiple-dwelling targets in areas rezoned by local councils.'¹¹

The Sydney Harbour Tunnel

During 1987, one decision of Cabinet marked a shift in the State's approach to funding new infrastructure. In the previous year, Premier Neville Wran had announced a plan for a much-needed harbour tunnel that was to be built by a private consortium, Transfield-Kumagai Joint Venture, subject to a feasibility study. The proposal, a Cabinet Minute written in April 1987 noted, 'will be *privately* funded and, according to [the] Minister, not affect [the] rest of [the] State's Road programme or [the] State's global borrowings'.¹²

Plans for the project were publicly exhibited from late December 1986 until late February in the following year. They attracted 463 submissions, 34 of which came from government departments. One from the Department of Planning opposed the tunnel on the grounds that it was 'not compatible with regional planning objectives'. A note in the Cabinet minutes regarding the Department's objections said: 'In essence DMR [Department of Main Roads] says need for Tunnel is self-evident'.¹³

The powerful DMR had recently completed a major study of road needs – *Roads 2000* – which envisaged a metropolitan 'orbital route' for Sydney. This was part of resuscitating 'earlier building programs... stalled by community protests and fiscal crisis in the 1970s'.¹⁴ Laurie Brereton, Minister for Main Roads, led the initiative.

Alternative plans were put forward by submission writers. There was a tunnel from Balmain to Greenwich; a bridge from Millers Point to Balls Head; another bridge from Garden Island to Shell Cove; another Harbour Bridge; and the addition of a four-lane upper deck on the Harbour Bridge.

Cabinet approved the Sydney Harbour Tunnel proposal on 27 April 1987. It also agreed that:

To cover repayment of \$40m to [the] consortium, payment of interest and principle to bond holders over... [a] 30 year term, to pay tax obligations and cover operating costs, Sydney Harbour Tunnel Company will receive an Ensured Revenue Stream (ERS). ERS is payable from August 1992 to July 2022... ERS can be renegotiated if inflation exceeds or falls below specified values.¹⁵

¹⁰ Mark Peel, 'The Urban Debate: from "Los Angeles to the Urban Village"', in Patrick Troy (ed), *Australian Cities: Issues, Strategies and Policies for Urban Australia in the 1990s*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 1995, pp45-47.

¹¹ Ashton and Freestone, op cit, citing Pauline McGuirk and Robyn Dowling, 'Understanding master-planned estates in Australian cities: a framework for research', *Urban Policy and Research*, vol 25, 2007, pp21-28.

¹² Cabinet Minute no 127-87, 'Proposed Sydney Harbour Tunnel', Cabinet Papers 27 April 1987, parts 1 & 2, SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14569]: my emphasis.

¹³ *ibid.*

¹⁴ Ashton and Freestone, op cit.

¹⁵ Cabinet Minute no 127-87, 'Proposed Sydney Harbour Tunnel', Cabinet Papers 27 April 1987, part 1, SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14569].

The *Sydney Harbour Tunnel (Private Joint Venture) Act* (1987) was passed in Parliament on 28 May 1987. The first of five main tunnels in Sydney's 'Orbital Network', the Sydney Harbour Tunnel became a blueprint for later private-public partnerships.

The Bicentenary

At this time, every Cabinet meeting's papers included a yellow sheet of paper with a ranked list of generally up to a dozen 'Major Issues'. Among these were the Sydney Harbour Tunnel (nominated by the responsible minister, Laurie Brereton), the rental crisis (Frank Walker and John Aquilina), AIDS education (Rodney Cavalier), the administration of the Sydney City Council (Janice Crosio) and wilderness protection (Bob Carr). One matter that was on most of the lists during 1987 was the Bicentenary.

The Cabinet papers do not include a great deal of detailed documentation for this national – though primarily Sydney-focussed – celebration, which in NSW was also a dry run for Sydney's bid for the Olympic Games. There was no Minister for the Bicentenary. But preparations for it were monitored by the Cabinet which received regular reports on its progress. The government had also made a decision to ensure that the celebrations went to plan.

Gerry Gleeson, Secretary and Permanent Head of the Premier's Department since 1977 who was responsible for supporting the Premier's Cabinet agenda – and former first grade rugby full-back player for Drummoyne – was appointed to the NSW Bicentennial Council in June 1985. He became its chair soon after. Premier Barrie Unsworth had also been involved with the NSW Bicentennial Council since its establishment in 1981.¹⁶

There were also a number of Cabinet items relating to major bicentennial projects. One – marked 'Urgent' – concerned an amendment of the *Darling Harbour Authority Act* 'in order to facilitate construction of [the] monorail stations' for the Bicentenary.¹⁷ Built by Thomas Nationwide Transport, headed by transport magnate Sir Peter Abeles, the monorail was exempted from over a dozen Acts of Parliament, including the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* (1979), and not subject to any Sydney City Council controls.¹⁸ Other major beautification projects included the completion of the Powerhouse Museum, the upgrading of Macquarie Street and Circular Quay and the construction of the magnificent Chinese Gardens in Darling Harbour. This was all part of the beginning of what historian Beverley Kingston has dubbed 'the event-led economy'.¹⁹

Sydney City Council Bill

With an economy in recession in the mid-1980s, the State Government adopted a plan for a tourism-led recovery. The Bicentennial celebrations were a part of this strategy. While the State was encouraging major development in the City of Sydney, independent 'Aldermen' (there were women), including Clover Moore, journalist and author Tony Reeves and Jack

¹⁶ Paul Ashton, *Waving the Waratah: Bicentenary New South Wales*, NSW Bicentennial Council, Sydney, 1989, pp71-77.

¹⁷ Cabinet Minute no 145-187, Cabinet decision 4 May 1987, SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14571].

¹⁸ Paul Ashton, *The Accidental City: Planning Sydney Since 1788*, Hale and Iremonger, Sydney, 1993, p112.

¹⁹ Beverley Kingston, *A History of New South Wales*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 2006, pp220-249.

Munday – famous for his championing of green bans in the 1970s – were questioning many development proposals and slowing down the approval process. This included Ipoh Gardens' redevelopment of the Anthony Hordern's site in George Street and five star hotels in Macquarie and Thomas Streets and in Kings Cross.²⁰

According to one Cabinet paper, the 'conduct of the Sydney City Council... [had] been under Ministerial and Cabinet review for some time'. While an 'Inspector's report found no impropriety',²¹ Cabinet decided to dismiss the council.

In a Cabinet Minute at the end of March in 1987, Cabinet approved the City of Sydney Bill under section 86 of the *Local Government Act* 'to dismiss Sydney City Council' and 'to provide for the administration of the City of Sydney by three commissioners' – 'as a matter of urgency'. Sir Eric Neale was to be the Chief Commissioner. The Bill was also designed to 'terminate' the Council's 'ability to take legal action' against this decision.²² This was the fourth – and not the last – time the State Government sacked the Sydney City Council since its establishment in 1842.²³

The University of Western Sydney

During the 1980s there was a push to increase the number of high school students who matriculated – less than half did so in 1983 – and to build what Prime Minister Bob Hawke would later in the eighties call the 'clever country'. This led to the 'Dawkins reforms' which saw moves to expand Australian higher education and change its direction. John Dawkins was the Federal Education Minister from 1987-1991. A critical development was the amalgamation of tertiary institutions.²⁴

While colleges and universities across the country were identifying potential partners, the NSW State Government moved quickly to create a 'University Presence in Western Sydney'.²⁵ A site – the 'Kingswood Tertiary Precinct' – had been identified almost two decades earlier in the 1968 *Sydney Regional Outline Plan*. And there two other options: 83 acres at Werrington Park which was no longer needed for housing disabled children due to the Department of Youth and Community Services' de-institutionalisation policy; and the Overseas Telecommunication Commission's site at Doonside. Space was a significant issue and Cabinet was reminded of the issues around expansion faced by the University of NSW and the University of Sydney in the 1960s. Kingswood was to become one of the sites for the new university.

Details over the nature of the institution, the timing for the first enrolments and financial contributions for the State and Federal governments were discussed by the Premier, Barrie Unsworth and Prime Minister Hawke at a meeting on 20 March 1987. Within a few days, Cabinet approved legislation for the creation of 'Chifley University College'.²⁶ But within a

²⁰ Ashton, *The Accidental City*, pp115-116.

²¹ Decision of Cabinet, 26 March 1987, SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14565].

²² City of Sydney Bill, approved 31 March 1987, SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14566]. See also meeting of 26 March 1987, SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14565].

²³ See Shirley Fitzgerald, *Sydney, 1842-1992*, Hale and Iremonger, Sydney, 1992.

²⁴ Debra Adelaide, Paul Ashton and Annette Salt (eds) *Stories from the Tower: UTS 1988-2013*, Xoum, Sydney, 2013, p21.

²⁵ Cabinet Minute no 68-87, in SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14564].

²⁶ See Cabinet Meeting Papers, 24 March 1987, SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14570].

year, almost to the day, the Unsworth Labor Government had suffered a major electoral defeat amid the bicentennial celebrations.

The successor Liberal Government gave the institution a new name: The University of Western Sydney. Its Act, passed in December 1988, amalgamated Hawkesbury Agricultural College at Richmond with the Kingswood-based Nepean College of Advanced Education. It opened on the first day of January in 1989.

Casino Tenders

Talk of building casinos in Australia generated heated debates from the 1960s. Moralists opposed them and many Australians associated them, rightly, with organised crime, not least through American films such as *The Godfather Part I* (1972). The nation's first casino, Wrest Point – and the first in the southern hemisphere – opened in Tasmania in 1973. Earlier, just over half of the voters in a 1968 Tasmanian referendum said 'yes' to allow casinos to operate. A failing economy and a desire for tourist dollars won the day.²⁷

New South Wales had a huge underground gambling industry and official corruption was rife at this time.²⁸ But politicians were generally cautious when it came to talk of allowing casinos even in difficult economic times. According to a cabinet document, it was not until 1986 that the Wran Labor Government agreed to the construction of a casino by the Hooker-Harrah consortium at Darling Harbour as part of the transformation of that site into a post-modern playground and of Sydney into a global city. But serious questions over probity and other matters led the Unsworth Government's Cabinet to abandon the project.²⁹ George Herscu, the Executive Chairman of the Hooker Corporation, was later gaoled in Queensland for bribing disgraced politician Russ Hinze.

A new tender was put out. And extreme care was taken in vetting the bids and the bidders. The bidders were: Australian Federal Hotels and Sabemo; Genting Berhad-Civil and Civic; Hong Kong Macau Sydney Consortium; and the Queensland Kern Corporation with Donald Trump. A Cabinet 'Casino Sub-Committee' was established consisting of the Treasurer, Ken Booth, the Attorney General, Terry Sheehan, the Minister for Public Works and Ports, Laurie Brereton, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, George Paciullo, and the Minister for Health and the Drug Offensive, Peter Anderson.

The Sub-Committee called for reports from the Police Board on probity and integrity, the Darling Harbour Authority on design, the merchant bank CIBC Australia and the Casino Control Division of the Treasury. Of the Kern-Trump group, the Police Board noted that:

Atlantic City would be a dubious model for Sydney and in our judgement, the Trump mafia connections should exclude the Kern/Trump consortium.³⁰

Apart from Genting Berhad-Civil and Civic, the Police Board stated that:

²⁷ Frank Crowley, *Tough Times: Australia in the Seventies*, William Heinemann Australia, Richmond, 1986, p287.

²⁸ Generally, see Peter Charlton, *Two Flies up a Wall: The Australian Passion for Gambling*, Methuen Haynes, North Ryde, 1987.

²⁹ 'Darling Harbour Hotel Casino Assessment Process', Cabinet Minute no 148-87, 4 May 1987, in SA NSW Ref: NRS12082: [14/14571].

³⁰ Attachment 5.1, 'Darling Harbour Hotel Casino Assessment Process', Cabinet Minute no 148-87, 4 May 1987, in SA NSW Ref: NRS12082: [14/14571].

The Board is firmly of the view that on tests of sound repute, probity and integrity, none of these [other] three consortia... can be considered, indeed each would be dangerous.³¹

CIBC Australia also deemed the Hong Kong Macau Sydney Consortium and Kern/Trump tenders to be financially unviable.

This tender process was scrapped. The State's first casino – The Star Sydney Casino and Hotel – opened in September 1995.

Chelmsford Private Hospital

Given the size and complexity of the Cabinet's business, papers occasionally are referred to other committees or sub committees. Sometimes they can be difficult to locate. At a Cabinet Meeting held on 17 February 1987, a report was provided on the Chelmsford Private Hospital. It was referred to the Policies and Priorities Committee of Cabinet. The report is not in the papers, just a minute about it.³² But it alerts us to an important story in the history of mental health in New South Wales which ironically led to improvements in the treatment of mentally ill people.

During 1963, Harry Richard Bailey, along with other colleagues over time, commenced treating patients at Chelmsford Private Hospital. The facility was located at 2 The Crescent Pennant Hills. Bailey – a charismatic individual – had developed an outstanding, though not-all-together deserved, reputation as a psychiatrist. And at Chelmsford, he undertook experimental treatments on patients. These involved deep sleep therapy – lengthy, narcotic induced comas – and electric shock therapy. By 1965 five patients had died at Chelmsford and the death toll grew. But a coronial inquiry found him innocent of any misdoings. Despite some misgivings about his methods, Bailey continued to collaborate with other reputable practitioners.³³

Chelmsford closed in 1979. By that time there had been over 24 deaths in the hospital. Many patients suffered serious physical and mental ailments after their treatment and some committed suicide. In 1980, investigative journalist Anthony McClellan worked with journalist Ray Martin on a *60 Minutes* current affairs television program which exposed a nightmare of medical negligence, abuse and fraud as well as the death of Miriam Podio in 1977. Bailey was charged with manslaughter in 1983 but this was dropped in 1985. The barrage of media coverage led Bailey to fatally overdose on barbiturates.³⁴ Cabinet deliberations in 1987 eventuated in the creation of a Royal Commission into Chelmsford, initiated by the Greiner Liberal Government in the following year. The NSW Victims Compensation Tribunal awarded \$5.5 million to 152 former Chelmsford patients.

³¹ *ibid.*

³² Cabinet Minute no 21-87, 17 February 1987 in SA NSW Ref: NRS12082: [14/14562].

³³ Stephen Garton, 'Bailey, Harry Richard (1922-1985)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography* available at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bailey-harry-richard-12162> accessed 18 August 2017.

³⁴ John Little, *Inside 60 Minutes: The Story Behind The Stories*, Allen and Unwin, Sydney, 1994, pp38-42.

The Chelmsford scandal also prompted the Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Bill (1987) which proposed 'improved disciplinary structures for [the] investigation and hearing of complaints concerning medical practitioners'.³⁵

Workers' Compensation

During February 1987, the New South Wales' Cabinet approved a recommendation put forward by Pat Hills, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Employment, to place a bill before Parliament to reform workers' compensation in the State. The act that controlled the system of compensation had been in place since 1926 and was in need of radical renewal.

Compensation claims were generally resolved through litigation based on common law. This was a slow process and it had led to the development a lucrative litigation industry. The Bill was meant in part to provide 'relief to employers from crippling [litigation] cost increases occasioned by workers' compensation insurance requirements' and to control the costs of compensation. But it was also to provide 'a greater emphasis on workplace safety and the protection of workers from workplace injury and disease'.³⁶ Safety was poorly considered if at all in many work places. On large building sites, for example, 'working conditions were primitive, dangerous and unhealthy'.³⁷

The new legislation replaced the principle of 'fault' – requiring litigation – with a 'no-fault' principle where people injured at work were automatically covered by a managed fund structure. Employers would have to have a rehabilitation plan in place before taking out a workers' compensation policy.

Establishment of the Judicial Commission

A number of scandals surrounding leading legal figures erupted in the mid-1980s. One involved Murray Farquhar who was gaoled for attempting to pervert the course of justice in March 1985.³⁸ Reform was in the air. On 18 November 1986, Attorney General Terry Sheahan announced various changes to the State's justice system. Among these was the creation of the Judicial Commission of New South Wales to monitor judicial conduct. Statutory authorities had become favoured vehicles for reform. As political scientist John Warhurt wrote around this time, 'Governments want power without responsibility which would accrue if the function were to be administered through the alternative organisational form, the department.'³⁹

On 17 March 1987, the Cabinet agreed to establish the Judicial Commission as a corporation which had the power to employ its own staff. It was modelled on the Californian

³⁵ Cabinet Papers, 4 May 1987 in SA NSW Ref: NRS12082: [14/14570].

³⁶ Cabinet Minute no 161-87, 8 May 1987 in SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14572], Cabinet Minute 353-86, 24 February 1987 in SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14566] and Cabinet Meeting 24 February 1987, Agenda Item 1, in SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14563].

³⁷ James Colman, *The House That Jack Built: Jack Munday, Green Bans Hero*, New South, Sydney, 2016, p32.

³⁸ Frank Bongiorno, *The Eighties: The Decade that Transformed Australia*, Black Inc, Carlton, 2015, p98.

³⁹ John Warhurt, 'Exercising Control over Statutory Authorities: A Study in Government Technique', in P. Weller and D. Jaensch (eds), *Responsible Government in Australia*, Drummond, Melbourne, 1980, p151.

Commission of Judicial Performance.⁴⁰ One commentator predicted that the establishment of the Commission would generate 'a tidal wave of complaints against judges in criminal cases'.⁴¹ But this did not eventuate. Rather, it rose to the forefront of judicial education in Australia.

⁴⁰ Cabinet Minute no 63-87, 11 March 1987 in SA NSW Ref: NRS 12082: [14/14564].

⁴¹ Vince Morabito, Vince (1993) 'The Judicial Officers Act 1986 (NSW): A Dangerous Precedent or a Model to Be Followed', *UNSW Law Journal*, no 481, p16.

1987 NSW Cabinet

Premier Minister for State Development Minister for Ethnic Affairs	Hon. Barrie Unsworth, MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Deputy Premier Minister for Transport	Hon. Ron Mulock, MP	4 July 1986 – 21 March 1988
Attorney General		26 November 1987 – 21 March 1988
Minister for Housing Minister for the Arts	Hon. Frank Walker, QC MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Minister for Public Works and Ports Minister for Roads	Hon. Laurie Brereton, MP	4 July 1986 - 26 November 1987
Minister for Industrial Relations Minister for Employment	Hon. Pat Hills, MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Minister for Health Minister for the Drug Offensive	Hon. Peter Anderson, MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Treasurer	Hon. Ken Booth, MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Attorney General Minister Assisting the Premier	Hon. Terry Sheahan, MP	4 July 1986 – 21 March 1988
Minister for Industry and Small Business Minister for Energy and Technology	Hon. Peter Cox, MP	4 July 1986 – 21 March 1988 26 November 1987 - 21 March 1988
Minister for Agriculture Minister for Lands Vice-President of the Executive Council	Hon. Jack Hallam, MLC	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Minister for Education	Hon. Rodney Cavalier, MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988

Minister for Sport and Recreation Minister for Racing Minister for Tourism	Hon. Michael Cleary, MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Minister for Police and Emergency Services	Hon. George Paciullo, MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Minister for Local Government Minister for Water Resources	Hon. Janice Crosio, MBE MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Minister for Finance Minister for Co-operative Societies Assistant Minister for Education	Hon. Bob Debus, MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Minister for Corrective Services Assistant Minister for Transport	Hon. John Akister, MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Minister for Planning and Environment Minister for Heritage	Hon. Bob Carr, MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Minister for Youth and Community Services Assistant Minister for Ethnic Affairs	Hon. John Aquilina, MP	4 July 1986 - 21 March 1988
Minister for Mineral Resources Minister for Aboriginal Affairs	Hon. Ken Gabb, MP	4 July 1986 – 21 March 1988
Minister for Energy		26 November – 21 March 1988
Minister for Consumer Affairs Minister for Small Business	Hon. Deirdre Grusovin, MLC	4 July 1986 – 21 March 1988 26 November 1977 – 21 March 1988

1987 Chronology

- January** Channel 9 becomes the first commercial national network after Alan Bond purchases TCN-9 and GVT-9 from Kerry Packer
- 4 February** America's Cup in Perth sees the USA regain the trophy
- 23 February** First mobile phone call made in Australia by Michael Duffy, Federal Minister for Communication
- 9 April** 'Les Patterson Saves the World' movie – 'a disaster of major proportions' – released
- 23 June** PM Bob Hawke announces at the Sydney Opera House that 'no child will be living in poverty [in Australia] by the year 1990'
- 19 July** Last episode of the ABC music program Countdown
- 28 July** Jack Renshaw (1909-1987), former Premier of NSW, dies
- 10 August** The Federal Hawke Government announces a Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody
- 28 August** Former NSW Minister for Corrective Services Rex Jackson found guilty of conspiring to accept bribes for the release of prisoners
- 1 September** Coffs Harbour becomes a city
- 23 September** Plan for an Australia card abandoned
- 3 October** Welcome Home parade held for Vietnam War veterans in Sydney drawing a crowd of over 100,000 people
- 20 October** 'Black Monday' stock market crash; All Ordinaries drops by one quarter
- 21 December** Extension of East Hills line to Glenfield connecting it to the Main South Line and providing services to Campbelltown and the Macarthur region

29 December Kylie Minogue's single 'I should be so Lucky' makes it onto the pop music charts