

Railways and Transport Ministers of Western Australia

The first Ministry for Railways was in the Forrest Government in 1890, the first Government after Responsible Government was obtained in 1890. The Ministry was expanded to include Transport in the Wise Labor Government 1945 and then the two portfolios were amalgamated in Sir Charles Court's Liberal Government in 1974 - 1982. In 1993 during Richard Court's Liberal Government the State Rail Freight service was sold. The public railway service, Westrail and Metro-bus remained the responsibility of the Department of Transport. In Geoff Gallop's Labor Government, the Transport portfolio was absorbed into the Department of Planning and Infrastructure becoming the responsibility of Alannah MacTiernan. A separate Transport Ministry was re-established in the 2008 Barnett Liberal Government which has responsibility of Railways.

Ministry	Name	Ministry Title	Assumption of Office Date	Retirement of Office Date
Forrest (Forrest) 1890 - 1901	Harry Whittall Venn	Commissioner of Railways and Director of Public Works	29 Dec 1890	10 Mar 1896
	Frederick Henry Piesse	Commissioner of Railways and Director of Public Works	1 Apr 1896	23 Aug 1900
	Barrington Clarke Wood	Commissioner of Railways and Director of Public Works	10 Sept 1900	15 Feb 1901
Throssell (Forrest) 1901	Barrington Clarke Wood	Commissioner of Railways and Director of Public Works	15 Feb 1901	27 May 1901
Leake (Opp) 1901	Joseph John Holmes	Commissioner of Railways	27 May 1901	21 Nov 1901
Morgans (Min) 1901	Frank Wilson	Commissioner of Railways and Minister for Mines	21 Nov 1901	23 Dec 1901
Leake (Opp) 1901 - 1902	Walter Kingsmill	Commissioner of Railways	23 Dec 1901	1 July 1902
James (Lib) 1902 - 1904	Cornthwaite Hector Rason	Minister for Works and Railways	1 July 1902	28 Apr 1904
Daglish (ALP) 1904 - 1905	John Barkell Holman	Minister for Railways and Labour	10 Aug 1904	7 June 1905
	William Dartnell Johnson	Minister for Mines and Railways	7 June 1905	25 Aug 1905
Rason (Lib) 1905 - 1906	Henry Gregory	Minister for Mines and Railways	25 Aug 1905	7 May 1906
Moore (Min) 1906 - 1910	Henry Gregory	Minister for Mines and Railways	7 May 1906	16 Sept 1910

Wilson (Lib) 1910 - 1911	Henry Gregory	Minister for Mines and Railways	16 Sept 1910	7 Oct 1911
Scaddan (ALP) 1911 - 1916	Philip Collier	Premier, Colonial Treasurer and Minister for Railways	7 Oct 1911	23 Nov 1914
	John Scaddan	Minister for Railways	23 Nov 1914	27 July 1916
Wilson (Lib) 1916 - 1917	James Mitchell	Minister for Railways , Water Supply and Industries	27 July 1916	28 June 1917
Lefroy (Lib) 1917 - 1919	John Scaddan	Minister for Mines and Railways	28 June 1917	27 July 1917
	Charles Arthur Hudson	Minister for Mines and Railways	27 July 1917	17 April 1919
Colebatch (Lib) 1919	Hal Pateshall Colebatch, MLC	Premier, Colonial Treasurer, Minister for Railways and Minister for Education	17 Apr 1919	17 May 1919
Mitchell (Nat) 1919 - 1924	John Scaddan	Colonial Secretary and Minister for Railways	17 May 1919	25 June 1919
		Minister for Mines, Railways , Police, Industries and Forests	25 June 1919	22 Mar 1924
Collier (ALP) 1924 - 1930	John Collings Willcock	Minister for Railways and Justice	16 Apr 1924	23 Apr 1930
Mitchell (Nat) 1930 - 1933	John Scaddan, CMG	Minister for Railways , Mines, Police, Forests and Industry	24 Apr 1930	24 Apr 1933
Collier (ALP) 1933 - 1936	John Collings Willcock	Minister for Justice, Railways and Education	24 April 1933	26 Mar 1935
		Minister for Justice and Railways	26 Mar 1935	19 Aug 1936
Willcock (ALP) 1936 - 1945	Frederick Charles Lee Smith	Minister for Justice and Railways	20 Aug 1936	29 Mar 1939
	Emil Nulsen	Minister for Justice and Railways	29 March 1939	31 July 1945
Wise (ALP) 1945 - 1947	Emil Nulsen	Minister for Justice and Railways	31 July 1945	3 Aug 1945
	William Mortimer Marshall	Minister for Mines, Railways and Transport	3 Aug 1945	1 Apr 1947

McLarty (Lib) 1947 - 1953	Harry Stephen Seward	Minister for , Railways and Transport	1 Apr 1947	6 Apr 1950
	Charles Herbert Simpson, MLC	Minister for Transport, Railways and Mines	6 Apr 1950	23 Feb 1953
Hawke (ALP) 1953 - 1959	Herbert Henry Styants	Minister for Railway, Transport and Police	23 Feb 1953	14 April 1956
	Harry Charles Strickland	Minister for Railways, North-West and Supply and Shipping	20 Apr 1956	13 Nov 1958
		Leader of Govt in LC, Minister for Railways , the North-West and Supply and shipping	13 Nov 1958	2 Apr 1959
	Herbert Ernst Graham (Separated Transport from Railways)	Minister for Transport, Housing, and Forests	20 Apr 1956	2 Apr 1959
Brand (Lib) 1959 - 1971	Charles Walter Michael Court, OBE	Minster for Industrial Development, Railways and the North West	2 Apr 1959	16 Mar 1965
		Minster for Industrial Development, Transport, Railways and the North West	16 Mar 1965	17 Aug 1965
		Minster for Industrial Development, Railways and the North West	17 Aug 1965	16 Feb 1967
	Raymond James O'Connor	Minister for Transport and Railways (Honorary Minister for Railways and Transport 16 Feb 1956 - 17 Aug 1965)	16 Feb 1967	3 Mar 1971
Minister for Transport	Charles Collier Perkins	Minister for Transport, Police Labour and Native Welfare	2 Apr 1959	7 Nov 1961
	George Meredith Cornell	Minister for Transport, Police and Native Welfare	7 Nov 1961	11 Apr 1962
	James Frederick Craig	Minister for Transport, Police	12 Apr 1962	16 Mar 1965
Tonkin (ALP) 1971 - 1974	Ronald Edward Bertram	Attorney General and Minister for Railways	3 Mar 1971	30 Sept 1971
	John Dolan, MLC	Minister for Police Transport and Railways	12 Oct 1971	7 Feb 1973
		Minister for Police Transport and Railways and Leader of the Govt in LC	7 Feb 1973	30 May 1973
		Minister for Education Transport and Railways and Leader of the Govt in LC	30 May 1973	8 Apr 1974

The Ministry for Railways was merged into the Department of Transport in the Court Liberal Government of 1974. Since then there has been no separate Minister for Railways. See Minister for Transport.				

Abbreviations

ALP	Australian Labor Party
Govt	Government
LA	Legislative Assembly
LC	Legislative Council
Lib	Liberal
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MLC	Member of the Legislative Council
Nat	Nationalist
Opp	Opposition

Sources

1. *The Western Australian Parliamentary Handbook* edited by David Black. 21st Revised Edition, 2005.
2. *Western Australian Government Gazette*, No 28, (Special), 3 February 2006.
3. *Western Australian Government Gazette*, No. 163, (Special), 23 September 2008.
4. State Law Publisher website, Acts with Administering Portfolios and Public Sector Agencies Updated 7 Oct 2008:
[http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/pco/prod/filestore.nsf/Documents/LIDocument:61P/\\$FILE/Table13.pdf?OpenElement](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/pco/prod/filestore.nsf/Documents/LIDocument:61P/$FILE/Table13.pdf?OpenElement).