



Dominic Perrottet
Treasurer

MEDIA RELEASE

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SIX OF THE BEST FOR GROUNDBREAKING PANEL

A former Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, two eminent professors, and a top Commonwealth public servant will make-up the expert panel undertaking the NSW Government's groundbreaking Federal Financial Relations Review (FFRR).

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet today announced the members of the panel, which will be chaired by Mr David Thodey AO, as the Rt Hon Sir Bill English KNZM, The Hon John Anderson AO, Professor Anne Twomey and Professor John Freebairn AO, and Ms Jane Halton AO PSM.

Mr Perrottet welcomed all the panel members and praised the talent, breadth of experience, and expert knowledge they would each bring to the FFRR.

"This is a highly-credentialed panel of experts with knowledge across government, public policy reform, federalism, economics and the law," Mr Perrottet said.

"I am very grateful to each of them for taking part in what will be a very significant project, one which will help re-define how NSW interacts with the Commonwealth and ensures the revenue system remains fit for purpose."

The FFRR will develop practical and achievable proposals for reforming the funding relationship between NSW and the Commonwealth.

Mr Perrottet said the panel will seek feedback from a variety of stakeholders such as community and business groups, consult with other states, and where necessary draw on external expertise as part of this process.

"We want a simple, fair and sustainable relationship which delivers a predictable outcome for NSW over the economic cycle," Mr Perrottet said.

"At present there are a large number of complex agreements in place, and funding for NSW and other states can also vary significantly due to matters beyond our control like the distortion of GST returns caused by a mining boom."

The panel will produce an initial discussion paper, with a final report due in the first half of 2020.

FFRR PANEL MEMBERS:

Mr David Thodey AO: Prominent Australian businessman with extensive Chairmanship experience including as the current Chair of the CSIRO. Mr Thodey is a former CEO of Telstra and also currently heads the panel leading the Independent Review of the Australian Public Service.

The Rt Hon Sir Bill English KNZM: Former New Zealand Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance. Sir Bill retired from the NZ parliament in 2018 after a career spanning 28 years.

The Hon John Anderson AO: Former Federal Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Development, and Federal Minister for Primary Industries and Energy. Mr Anderson remains a strong advocate for rural communities.

Professor Anne Twomey: Professor of Constitutional Law and Director, Constitutional Reform Unit at the University of Sydney. Professor Twomey is an expert in the field of constitutional law with research interests in federalism.

Professor John Freebairn AO: Holder of the Ritchie Chair of Economics at the University of Melbourne. Professor Freebairn is an applied microeconomist and economic policy analyst with interests in taxation reform and public finance.

Ms Jane Halton AO PSM: Experienced Commonwealth public servant with nearly 15 years as Secretary, including for the Department of Health and the Department of Finance. Ms Halton has served on a wide range of Government and business boards both in Australia and overseas.

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