

Barton Deakin Brief – ACT Shadow Ministry

Overview

Following the election of Mark Parton as leader of the Canberra Liberals, a reshuffled shadow cabinet has been announced. The changes aim to present a "refreshed and forward-looking" opposition, uniting the party and strategically positioning it for the 2028 election.

Key changes to the shadow ministry include the return of Elizabeth Lee and Peter Cain, who were previously suspended from the party room, alongside significant portfolio realignments.

Key Promotions and Changes to Shadow Cabinet:

- **Deborah Morris** promoted to Deputy Opposition Leader.
- **Elizabeth Lee** returns to the Shadow Cabinet, taking on Education, Environment and Climate Change, and Tourism and Events.
- **Peter Cain** returns to the Shadow Cabinet, overseeing Community Services, Government Services, Veterans, and Seniors.

Strategic Analysis

- **Mark Parton (Leader) – Health, Transport, Gaming, and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs:** By taking on prominent portfolios like Health and Transport, Parton is positioning himself at the forefront of critical service delivery debates. These are often high-stakes portfolios with significant public interest and opportunities to highlight government shortcomings. His personal involvement underscores these as priority areas for the opposition.
- **Deborah Morris (Deputy Leader) – Planning, Police, Emergency Services, Home Ownership & Housing Affordability, and Corrections:** Morris's expansive portfolio, particularly her oversight of Home Ownership and Housing Affordability (now reunited), signifies a strong focus on cost-of-living issues and addressing the ACT's housing challenges. This strategic alignment targets



a broad demographic, including first-time homebuyers and those struggling with housing costs, and positions the party as a champion for accessible housing solutions.

- **Return of Elizabeth Lee and Peter Cain:** Their reintegration into the shadow cabinet, despite previous suspensions, is a pivotal move for party unity. Lee's assignment to Education, Environment and Climate Change, and Tourism and Events positions a seasoned politician in areas that resonate strongly with a diverse voter base, particularly younger generations and environmentally conscious voters. Cain's portfolios in Community Services and Government Services allow him to continue contributing to oversight of key government functions.
- **Portfolio Refinements – Environment and Climate Change:** The shift from "planning and environment" to "environment and climate change" for Lee's portfolio highlights a specific and contemporary focus, potentially allowing the Liberals to differentiate their environmental policies and appeal to a broader cross-section of the electorate, challenging perceptions in this space.
- **Ed Cocks (Treasury):** Retaining a key economic portfolio underscores a consistent focus on fiscal responsibility and economic management, a traditional strength for the Liberal Party.

ACT Shadow Ministry

Title	Member
Leader of the Opposition	Mark Parton
Shadow Minister for Health	Mark Parton
Shadow Minister for Transport	Mark Parton
Shadow Minister for Gaming and Racing	Mark Parton

Title	Member
Shadow Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Mark Parton
Deputy Opposition Leader	Deborah Morris
Shadow Minister for Planning	Deborah Morris
Shadow Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Community Safety	Deborah Morris
Shadow Minister for Home Ownership and Housing Affordability	Deborah Morris
Shadow Minister for Corrections	Deborah Morris
Opposition Whip	Ed Cocks
Shadow Treasurer	Ed Cocks
Shadow Minister for Private Sector Employment and Industrial Affairs	Ed Cocks
Shadow Minister for Youth Affairs	Ed Cocks
Shadow Attorney-General	Chiaka Barry
Shadow Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness	Chiaka Barry
Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Chiaka Barry



Title	Member
Shadow Minister for Community Services	Peter Cain
Shadow Minister for Government Services	Peter Cain
Shadow Minister for Veterans	Peter Cain
Shadow Minister for Seniors	Peter Cain
Shadow Minister for City Services	Leanne Castley
Shadow Minister for Women	Leanne Castley
Shadow Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence	Leanne Castley
Shadow Minister for Education	Elizabeth Lee
Shadow Minister for Environment and Climate Change	Elizabeth Lee
Shadow Minister for Tourism and Events	Elizabeth Lee
Shadow Minister for Business Innovation and Economic Development	James Milligan
Shadow Minister for Skills and Vocational Training	James Milligan
Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation	James Milligan



Title	Member
Shadow Minister for Arts and Creative Industries	James Milligan

For more information, please contact [Matthew Harris](#) on 0410 839 586.

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