

## Barton Deakin Brief – Sloane NSW Opposition Shadow Ministry

6 January 2026

### Overview

Kellie Sloane has announced her first Shadow Cabinet as newly elected Leader of the NSW Opposition, signalling a deliberate pivot toward regional strength and social policy depth ahead of the 2027 State Election (28 March 2027).

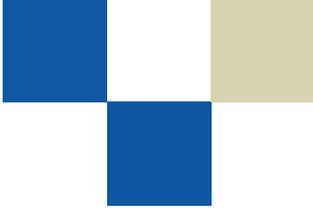
The new frontbench represents a strategic recalibration of Opposition priorities, with particular emphasis on geographic representation across NSW's diverse constituencies, from the North Coast to the Illawarra, Western Sydney to regional centres.

The Shadow Cabinet structure prioritizes the Coalition partnership with the Nationals, allocating significant regional portfolios while maintaining the traditional separation of Opposition Leader and Shadow Treasurer roles.

With cost-of-living pressures mounting and regional communities facing infrastructure deficits, the shadow ministry aims to present a geographically balanced alternative government, signalling that a Sloane led Coalition would prioritize regional economies alongside metropolitan centres.

### Strategic Analysis

- **Regional Representation and Coalition Balance:** The distribution of regional portfolios across the frontbench—Gurmesh Singh (Regional NSW, North Coast), Kevin Anderson (Western NSW, Seniors), Paul Toole (Regional Transport and Roads), and Brendan Moylan (Prevention of Regional Crime), reflects a deliberate architecture to maintain Coalition cohesion. This allocation ensures the Nationals retain substantive territorial holdings while allowing the Liberals to compete in regional constituencies. The structure suggests an acknowledgment that regional votes are in play and require dedicated frontbench attention.



- **Social Portfolio Consolidation:** Natasha Maclaren-Jones's expansive portfolio, Families and Communities, Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Disability Inclusion, Homelessness, and Youth, represents a significant consolidation of social policy within a single shadow minister's remit. Combined with Felicity Wilson's Women and Aboriginal Affairs responsibilities, it projects considerable frontbench depth on social policy areas.
- **Economic Modernization:** James Griffin's portfolio, spanning AI, Digital Investment, and Customer Service sits distinctly separate from Dave Layzell's Natural Resources and Mining brief. This separation allows the Opposition to articulate positioning on both innovation driven productivity and resource sector interests without apparent contradiction. It signals a structured approach to economic messaging that encompasses multiple constituencies and sectoral interests.
- **Shadow Treasury:** Scott Farlow's appointment as Shadow Treasurer operates as a standalone role, distinct from the Opposition Leader, as seen in other Coalition Cabinets and Shadow Cabinets. This reflects a structural choice around how economic policy will be managed and communicated. The allocation of The Hunter portfolio alongside Treasury keeps Farlow's political base grounded in a significant region, maintaining connection to constituency interests while managing fiscal policy construction.

### The Shadow Cabinet

SHADOW MINISTER	TITLE
Kellie Sloane MP	Leader of the Opposition Leader of the Liberals
Gurmesh Singh MP	Leader of the Nationals Shadow Minister for Regional NSW Shadow Minister for Small Business Shadow Minister for Trade Shadow Minister for the North Coast

SHADOW MINISTER	TITLE
Natalie Ward MP	Deputy Leader of the Liberals Deputy Leader of the Liberals in the Legislative Council Shadow Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Shadow Minister for Sport
Kevin Anderson MP	Deputy Leader of the Nationals Shadow Minister for Hospitality and Gaming Shadow Minister for Tourism Shadow Minister for Western NSW Shadow Minister for Seniors
Damien Tudehope MP	Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Shadow Attorney General Shadow Minister for Youth Justice
Sarah Mitchell MP	Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Shadow Minister for Health Shadow Minister for Regional Health Shadow Minister for Mental Health
Justin Clancy MP	Deputy Leader of the Liberals in the Legislative Assembly Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education Shadow Minister for Medical Research
Scott Farlow MP	Shadow Treasurer Shadow Minister for the Hunter
Mark Coure MP	Shadow Minister for Roads Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism Shadow Minister for South Western Sydney
James Griffin MP	Manager of Opposition Business in the Legislative Assembly Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change Shadow Minister for Digital, Artificial Intelligence and

SHADOW MINISTER	TITLE
	Investment Shadow Minister for Customer Service
Tim James MP	Shadow Minister for Fair Trading, Work Health and Safety and Building Shadow Minister for Local Government Shadow Minister for Veterans
Mark Speakman MP	Shadow Minister for Education
Paul Toole MP	Shadow Minister for Regional Transport and Roads
Natasha Maclaren-Jones MP	Shadow Minister for Families and Communities Shadow Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shadow Minister for Disability Inclusion Shadow Minister for Homelessness Shadow Minister for Youth
Dave Layzell MP	Shadow Minister for Mining and Natural Resources Shadow Minister for Racing
Chris Rath MP	Shadow Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Shadow Minister for Housing Shadow Minister for Cities Shadow Minister for the Arts Shadow Minister for Illawarra and South Coast
Anthony Roberts MP	Shadow Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism Shadow Minister for Corrections
Felicity Wilson MP	Shadow Minister for Women Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Shadow Minister for Early Education
Eleni Petinos MP	Shadow Minister for Jobs Shadow Minister for Industry and Domestic Manufacturing

SHADOW MINISTER	TITLE
Alister Henskens MP	Shadow Special Minister of State Shadow Minister for Government Accountability
Steph Cooke MP	Shadow Minister for Water Shadow Minister for Crown Lands
Monica Tudehope MP	Shadow Minister for Finance Shadow Minister for Western Sydney
Tanya Thompson MP	Shadow Minister for Emergency Services Shadow Minister for Disaster Recovery
James Wallace MP	Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations Shadow Minister for Government Procurement
Jacqui Munro MP	Shadow Minister for the Environment Shadow Minister for Science and Technology Shadow Minister for Heritage Shadow Minister for the Central Coast
Brendan Moylan MP	Shadow Minister for Agriculture Shadow Minister for Prevention of Regional Crime

### Further Information

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

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