



T R E A S U R E R

MEDIA RELEASE

Stephen Sedgwick appointed NSW Government's Chair of Better Services and Value Taskforce

Treasurer Eric Roozendaal today announced the appointment of economist Stephen Sedgwick as the independent chairperson of the NSW Government's Better Services and Value Taskforce – which will target savings and improve service delivery across government departments.

One of its first departments for forensic examination is the Department of Education.

It will also target expenditure in the area of legal services and IT.

Mr Sedgwick is a former Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Finance, a Director of the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at the University of Melbourne and a director of the Asian Development Bank in Manila. He has more than 30 years in the Australian public service.

The Better Services and Value Taskforce was announced in the 2009-10 NSW Budget.

"Mr Sedgwick brings immense public sector and finance experience to this position," Mr Roozendaal said.

"Mr Sedgwick will lead the Better Services and Value Taskforce in finding savings across Government departments, and ensuring state-owned corporations are performing to commercial standards.

"The Taskforce is an important initiative which will help ensure the NSW Budget remains structurally sound, and will improve service delivery for NSW families," Mr Roozendaal said.

Mr Sedgwick will be supported by Mr Stephen Brady who has been appointed to head the new Expenditure Review Directorate in NSW Treasury.

Mr Brady is currently a Deputy Secretary in Treasury and brings some 15 years commercial and corporate experience to his new role as the Head of the Expenditure Review Directorate. This new Directorate will provide critical support to the Taskforce in implementing the Better Services and Value Plan.

Mr Roozendaal announced a strong new program of efficiency improvement through the Better Services and Value Plan in the NSW Budget. The Taskforce will:

- Critically examine government agency spending line-by-line, commencing with a review of the Department of Education and Training
- Strategically review the performance of all state-owned corporations and
- Rationalise whole-of-government spending in areas such as IT and legal services.

The Taskforce will include the Secretary of NSW Treasury and the Director-General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

As required, temporary independent members with relevant specialist expertise will be recruited on to review steering committees to provide advice on specific issues, including IT.

The Taskforce will meet on a monthly basis and when required.

The Better Services and Value Plan will also see a comprehensive reform of the public sector amalgamating 160 government agencies and offices to just 13 departments – the biggest overhaul in 30 years.

A curriculum vitae for Mr Sedgwick is available on request.