

NSW's top public servant Blair Comley replaced in Gladys Berejikian shake-up

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THE state's top public servant, who steered the government during the disastrous greyhound racing and council amalgamations policies, has been replaced.

Blair Comley has been moved on in a changing of the [guard by Premier Gladys Berejikian, who is continuing to reshape](#) her most important advisers since becoming premier nine months ago.



NSW Premier Gladys Berejikian. Picture: Nathan Edwards

Ms Berejikian has replaced [Mr Comley with current Transport Secretary Tim Reardon](#), with whom she worked closely when she was Transport Minister.

Mr Comley was sacked as boss of the federal department of resources, energy and tourism by then incoming prime minister Tony Abbott, on the day his government was sworn in, in 2013, before then-premier Mike Baird hand-picked him to steer the NSW public service a year later.

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Secretary of Transport for NSW Tim Reardon is moving up in the world. Picture: Jonathan Ng

He also worked closely with Mr Baird on a failed proposal to up the GST to 15 per cent, before the greyhound and council amalgamations policies were later unpicked.

The elevation of Mr Reardon also speaks to Ms Berejiklian's prioritisation of transport and infrastructure in the lead-up to the next election.



High-level adviser Blair Comley is moving on.

“I am delighted Tim has accepted the role of secretary of my department,” Ms Berejiklian said.

“His expertise in strategic infrastructure planning and project delivery has been at the heart of this government’s achievements and I am looking forward to him now bringing this expertise to the centre of government.”

Of Mr Comley, Ms Berejiklian said: “Blair has been outstanding at the helm of the department, and the NSW public service, since his appointment in 2014.

“It is widely recognised around Australia that under his leadership, the NSW public service has been transformed into a desirable and exciting employer of choice for those seeking a rewarding public service career, something of which I am immensely proud.”

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/nsws-top-public-servant-blair-comley-replaced-in-gladys-berejiklian-shakeup/news-story/3a7bc26fd9b3b0a7d6035e5f5d8ad478>