

## Howard cabinet shuffle coming soon

- *Dennis Shanahan, Political editor*
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### **FEDERAL ministers expect a cabinet reshuffle within weeks, perhaps days, as John Howard prepares for his new year break.**

Although the announcement of the new ministry is not expected today or tomorrow, it is possible the Prime Minister will make changes to his ministry public next week before he begins holidays on January 1.

Mr Howard has refused to speculate about the changes, but Arts and Sports Minister Rod Kemp has offered his resignation, which could trigger a reshuffle.

The Government is expected to change its ministers in preparation for the election year, with possible promotions for NSW MP Malcolm Turnbull, Victorian MP and former Liberal Party director Andrew Robb and health Parliamentary Secretary Christopher Pyne.

Environment Minister Ian Campbell, who could be dropped, took the political fight to Labor yesterday over the West Australian Burrup peninsula after suffering a setback on a wind farm in Victoria.

Senator Campbell is expected to reject a Green-ALP application to suspend a \$28 billion gas project in Western Australia over heritage listings.

Parliamentary Secretary on the Environment, Victorian MP Greg Hunt, has been pursuing an aggressive stance on water and climate change, with the possibility the only ministerial vacancy will occur in Victoria.

Government sources played down suggestions Health Minister Tony Abbott could be switched back to industrial relations to match the new deputy Labor leader, Julia Gillard.

Ms Gillard said yesterday she was not "trembling" at the prospect of Mr Abbott's switch.

"Tony has done industrial relations before. Tony has got a bit of bully-boy swagger, and I think that kind of suits the laws John Howard has put in place: they're a fair bit about bullying people."