



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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RETIREMENT OF EDMUND CAPON AM OBE

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell has paid tribute to the Director of the Art Gallery of NSW, Edmund Capon AM OBE, who is retiring from the post after 33 years.

Mr Capon today announced he would step down from the position at the end of the year.

Mr O'Farrell said under Edmund Capon's tenure, the Art Gallery of NSW has become an important player in the international art scene.

"For over three decades, Edmund Capon has been both the public face of the Art Gallery of NSW and a major behind the scenes driving force for its improvement and development," Mr O'Farrell said.

"Edmund is as iconic as the Gallery he has directed - and as wonderfully irreverent as so many of the artists he has championed.

"After taking up his appointment at the Gallery in November 1978, Edmund has gone on to transform this very important cultural institution.

"In 1983 he launched the gallery's highly successful Foundation, a Capital fund, to acquire significant works of art for the Gallery's collection.

"As a result, the Gallery has accumulated a truly impressive ensemble of fine international and Australian art and become renowned as one of the most beautiful galleries in the world.

"Edmund is responsible for the purchase of several world famous art works including Cezanne's *Bords de la Marne* which joined the collection in 2008.

"During his tenure he's served 9 Premiers and transformed the Gallery from a dusty, tired old building that no one wanted to visit into this highly appealing, iconic place where people want to be, want to donate to and want to be associated.

"I wish Edmund all the very best in his retirement. He will certainly be a hard act to follow.

"The Gallery will lead an international search for Mr Capon's replacement," Mr O'Farrell said.