

POLICE — CRIMINAL BIKIE GANGS CAMPAIGN

Statement by Minister for Police

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police) [2.08 pm]: I rise to inform the house of a campaign that WA Police and I launched on Saturday, 10 May 2014. We are asking the public to help us fight against criminal bikie gangs that we know are linked to extortion, violent crimes, drug dealing and illegal firearms. I am asking all members, as community leaders, to help promote this important campaign. The public can help us in this fight and they can do so without being afraid of being identified. Regardless of how insignificant the public may believe its information is, it could be the one piece of information that can help us stop a bikie gang in Western Australia.

The Crime Stoppers appeal will result in a phone-in day on 20 May. A similar appeal in 2009 led police to prosecute 69 gang members, laying over 189 charges, and the seizure of drugs worth almost \$11 million from Western Australian streets. That appeal also resulted in information that led police to identify a new gang that had gained a foothold in Western Australia. WA Police know of nine criminal bikie gangs, including more than 400 patched members and nominees spread across 27 chapters and 28 clubhouses across the state. Also, information gained during this campaign may be used by WA Police to develop enhanced intelligence packages to inform decision-making as to which groups and individuals will be the initial subjects of an application to ban an organisation as outlined in the Criminal Organisations Control Act 2012—legislation that the Liberal–National government delivered in 2013. Police have repeatedly said that they will not test this legislation in the courts until they are confident of a successful application. As we know, these outlaw motorcycle gangs use proceeds of their crimes to hire highly paid lawyers to defend them. I urge the public to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, particularly on Tuesday, 20 May, with any available information to the police about outlaw bikies or indeed the gangs’ activities to ensure that we can prosecute these offenders.