

ROAD SAFETY COMMISSIONER — APPOINTMENT

Statement by Minister for Road Safety

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Road Safety) [2.04 pm]: I rise to inform the house of the appointment of Mr Kim Papalia as Western Australia's first Road Safety Commissioner. Mr Papalia was appointed acting commissioner earlier this year after a distinguished career with Western Australia Police in which he witnessed firsthand the devastation and heartache caused by road trauma. As Road Safety Commissioner, he will now permanently lead the Road Safety Commission in our relentless campaign to meet the ambitious targets of the government's Towards Zero road safety strategy to significantly reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on Western Australian roads by 2020.

The appointment of a commissioner and the establishment of the Road Safety Commission as a stand-alone agency to develop, coordinate, monitor and evaluate road safety initiatives funded by the road trauma trust account were key recommendations of the review of road safety governance in Western Australia, one of this government's 2013 election commitments. The review made 56 recommendations to improve the governance of road safety in Western Australia and these recommendations are now being implemented by the Road Safety Commission. Another key recommendation was the restructure of the Road Safety Council to form an advisory body to be known as the Road Safety Advisory Council. This body will be led by the Road Safety Commissioner as chair and its membership will be expanded to encompass vulnerable road users and regional representation. The necessary amendments to the Road Safety Council Act 2002 to create the advisory council are currently being progressed, and, until these changes occur, the Road Safety Council will continue to operate in its current form. The term of appointment of the chair of the Road Safety Council, Professor Murray Lampard, ended on 31 October 2015 and our new commissioner will now fulfil this role.

I would like to take this opportunity to honour the outgoing chair and thank him for his leadership and dedication to this important position over the past three years. Professor Lampard has been a tireless and passionate campaigner for road safety in Western Australia, with a particular emphasis on educating the community, and I thank him for the excellent work that he has done during his term as chair of the Road Safety Council. I would also like to acknowledge the staff of the Road Safety Commission and the members of the Road Safety Council and thank them for their hard work and assistance during this transition period and their dedication to keeping Western Australian road users safe on our roads. Road safety is an absolute priority for the Liberal–National government and we will continue to be relentless in our efforts to further reduce road trauma in Western Australia through safer roads, enforcement and education.