

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE — CHRIS DAWSON — SERVICE

Statement by Minister for Police

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police) [12.06 pm]: I rise to acknowledge the contribution to the Western Australian community of former Deputy Police Commissioner Chris Dawson. Members may be aware that Mr Dawson recently departed Western Australia Police after 38 years of service to take up a role as chief executive of the Australian Crime Commission. Although I wholeheartedly congratulate Mr Dawson on his appointment, his departure is a patent loss for WA Police and the people of Western Australia. Mr Dawson has had a venerated career with WA Police and it has been both a pleasure and a privilege to work with him during my time as police minister. A supremely competent police officer, his professionalism and honesty have always been acknowledged and appreciated within executive government. His appointment to senior leadership roles at WA Police has been undeniably deserved and his manner and style of leadership have always ensured he garners respect wherever he goes. I can also vouch that on the rare occasion I have seen him in action, his policing instinct is well-honed.

Mr Dawson joined WA Police as a cadet in 1976 and served in country and metropolitan positions, as well as in portfolios such as serious and organised crime, counterterrorism and state protection. He was the state commander for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in which he was responsible for the security of all attending heads of state from 53 commonwealth countries. Appointed to the position of Deputy Commissioner 10 years ago by Commissioner Karl O’Callaghan, Mr Dawson has proved himself a respected and capable leader whose humility has belied his talents. Members from both sides of the house will no doubt have had dealings with Mr Dawson at some point in time, and I feel confident in saying that he will be universally missed. I wish Mr Dawson all the best in his new role. I know he will take with him his commitment to justice and his dedication to duty.