

WA JOINT ORGANISED CRIME TASKFORCE

Statement by Minister for Police

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Police) [12.06 pm]: I rise to inform the house of the successes of the Western Australian Joint Organised Crime Taskforce, which marked one year of operation last month. The Liberal–National government remains committed to targeting the scourge of methamphetamine in the Western Australian community. This involves a multifaceted, whole-of-government effort that involves targeting the sale, supply and demand for this destructive and toxic drug. The establishment of the WA Joint Organised Crime Taskforce forms an integral part of this commitment.

Since April 2015 the multi-agency task force, consisting of members from Western Australia Police, the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Border Force, the Australian Crime Commission and the Australian Transaction and Analysis Centre—AUSTRAC—has been co-located at the AFP aviation operations building at Perth Airport. The task force has been focused on targeting the importation and distribution of illicit drugs, particularly methamphetamine, via post, airstream, road, rail, sea and other channels into Western Australia. The task force allows these key agencies to share intelligence on drug importations, such as the ACC intelligence relating to meth organised crime groups, combine specialist capabilities, and detect and disrupt meth importation into WA and arrest those responsible.

Since the inception of the WA Joint Organised Crime Taskforce, the combined efforts of key enforcement and intelligence agencies has resulted in the seizure of over 78 kilograms of meth, with 27 offenders charged with 55 commonwealth and state offences. These significant seizures include the 26-kilogram meth bust that took place in February this year. The task force should be commended for its efforts in its first year of operation and will continue to work collaboratively and gather intelligence to seize meth off our streets. The Liberal–National government will continue to support these effective measures and remains steadfast in its commitment to address the scourge of the drug.