

**“A REVIEW OF ROAD SAFETY GOVERNANCE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA” — GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

*Statement by Minister for Road Safety*

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Road Safety)** [12.03 pm]: I rise to inform the house of the release of the government response to the report titled “A Review of Road Safety Governance in Western Australia”, also known as the Browne review. The review makes 56 recommendations for an alternative model to improve the governance arrangements for road safety in Western Australia. The government broadly accepts all the review’s recommendations and we will now work towards putting the necessary processes in place to allow these to be progressed. The government strongly supports the key recommendations of the review; namely, the establishment of the position of a commissioner of road safety as an end of line and fully accountable chief executive officer and the establishment of the office of the commissioner of road safety as a stand-alone government entity to coordinate, monitor and evaluate road safety initiatives in Western Australia. The commissioner will report directly to the minister, assume a leadership role in road safety in Western Australia and will be responsible for putting into place the recommendations of the review.

Other significant recommendations arising from the review and supported by the government include: making the Road Safety Council an advisory body to be known as the road safety advisory council; expanding its membership to include vulnerable road users and regional representation; the introduction of a road safety experts panel to provide guidance on road trauma trust account submissions and policy advice to the commissioner and to serve on the new road safety advisory council; and following the Victorian road safety model in which chief executive officers of agencies with road safety responsibilities collaborate to prepare and present regular reports to the Minister for Road Safety on progress towards reducing road fatalities.

It is anticipated that the new office of the commissioner of road safety will be operational from 1 July 2015, absorbing the current Office of Road Safety. An interim commissioner will be appointed as soon as possible and will be responsible for the establishment of the new office. Executive search and appointment processes for a permanent commissioner will commence as soon as the new office is formally established. These arrangements are being overseen by the Public Sector Commissioner.

I would like to make special mention of the executive director of the Office of Road Safety, Mr Iain Cameron, the chair of the Road Safety Council, Professor Murray Lampard, the staff of the Office of Road Safety and the members of the Road Safety Council and thank them all for their dedication and commitment in assisting me as Minister for Road Safety in our endeavours to try to keep Western Australians safe on our roads. I look forward to their ongoing commitment to road safety during the transition to the new arrangements.

Road safety is an absolute priority for the Liberal–National government and we will remain relentless in our efforts to further reduce road trauma in Western Australia through safer roads, enforcement and education.