

REECE WALDOCK — APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR GENERAL, TRANSPORT

Statement by Minister for Transport

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Transport) [2.02 pm]: I am pleased to inform the house today that the Liberal–National government has acted to integrate and enhance the coordination of the state's transport operations, regulatory functions and policy development processes by appointing one person to head its three key transport agencies—the Department of Transport, Main Roads Western Australia and the Public Transport Authority. From 3 May, the current chief executive of the PTA, Reece Waldock, will take on the newly created position of Director General, Transport. As part of his responsibilities, Mr Waldock will concurrently hold the positions of Director General of the Department of Transport, Commissioner of Main Roads and chief executive officer of the PTA.

As Western Australia enters a new period of sustained economic growth, it is important that the state government focuses not only on the way we execute policy in the present but, more significantly, on the way that we plan for the future. Equally important is ensuring that our key transport agencies have a more coordinated, cooperative and unified vision. The state government must provide long-term solutions to ensure that our road, rail, port and public transport systems work cohesively together in a way that uses our finite resources as efficiently as possible.

I believe that Mr Waldock's appointment will improve planning, policy and budgeting across the large transport portfolio without increasing agency bureaucracy. We know that having the right leaders and the right people are the key to delivering good outcomes. I would like to reiterate to the chamber that the state government has no intention of merging the three organisations into one super-department. The arrangements we are implementing will capitalise on the considerable strengths of all three agencies. The PTA and Main Roads WA will continue as the statutory authorities so that they continue to apply their expertise and focus to their core activities.

Consideration of the statement made an order of the day for the next sitting, on motion by **Hon Ed Dermer**.