

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION — APPOINTMENTS

Statement by Minister for Industrial Relations

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Industrial Relations) [12.08 pm]: I am pleased to advise the house that two new commissioners have been appointed to the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission. The appointments reflect the McGowan government's commitment to ensuring a well-resourced and balanced commission to oversee industrial relations matters in this state. Charmaine Tsang has been appointed from 18 July 2022 and Timothy Kucera has been appointed from 29 August 2022.

Ms Tsang and Mr Kucera both have a wealth of experience in employment law and industrial relations matters. Prior to her appointment, Ms Tsang was a partner of the Perth employment and safety team at global law firm HFW, while Mr Kucera was the state secretary of the United Professional Firefighters' Union of Western Australia. Their specialist employment law backgrounds will hold them in good stead to adjudicate on matters such as industrial disputation, enterprise bargaining, unfair dismissal, workplace bullying and sexual harassment.

The Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission has presided over industrial relations matters in Western Australia for well over 14 years. The McGowan government recently passed a raft of legislation to reform industrial relations and work health and safety rules as well as introduce a new compensation scheme for medically retired police officers. The commission will be pivotal to overseeing the implementation of these reforms in practice.

The government has been mindful to ensure that appointments to the commission are very much merit based and that commissioners come from a diverse range of backgrounds to reflect the diversity of Western Australia and its workplaces. As the Minister for Industrial Relations, I have been proud to appoint commissioners whom I know will uphold the standing and integrity of the commission for many years to come.