

WESTERN POWER — CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER — APPOINTMENT

Statement by Minister for Energy

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Energy) [12.03 pm]: I am pleased to inform the house of the appointment of Sam Barbaro as chief executive officer at Western Power. Mr Barbaro has more than 20 years' experience across legal, commercial and operations. He brings a wealth of strategic knowledge and capability in leading one of the state's most essential service providers. Mr Barbaro joined Western Power in 2007 and entered the executive team in 2014 as general counsel and executive manager of governance and assurance. As executive manager of asset operations, Mr Barbaro led Western Power's recovery efforts during cyclone Seroja and the Wooroloo bushfire. He has been acting CEO for the past five months, following the departure of Ed Kalajzic.

Western Australia's energy sector is facing an exciting and challenging time. Western Power will continue to play an important role in delivering a reliable, affordable energy supply as we progress towards net zero emissions by 2050. Mr Barbaro has proven himself to be extremely capable in steering the organisation into a renewable energy future. I am confident that his extensive experience holds him in good stead for the CEO role. On behalf of the McGowan government, I congratulate Mr Barbaro on his appointment.