

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AND LANDS**

Statement by Premier

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [12.02 pm]: I take this opportunity to inform the house that two new departments—the Department of Transport, and the Department of Regional Development and Lands—will be created with effect from 1 July 2009.

The new Department of Regional Development and Lands will be created through the restructuring of the existing Department of Local Government and Regional Development, which will be renamed the Department of Local Government. The Department of Regional Development and Lands will oversee the royalties for regions initiative, manage other key projects such as the Ord expansion and East Kimberley infrastructure project, and will be responsible for regional development matters, including the state and pastoral lands functions. These land functions will transfer to the new department from the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. The Department of Regional Development and Lands will be responsible to Hon Brendon Grylls, MLA, consistent with his current portfolios of regional development and lands. A new director general's position will be created and advertised for the department.

A new Department of Transport will be also be created by restructuring the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. The Department of Transport will have a focus on strategic transport planning and policy across the range of public and commercial transport systems that service the state, as well as operational transport functions. Improving collaboration and integration between existing public sector agencies within the transport portfolio will also be an important role of the Department of Transport. Hon Simon O'Brien, MLC, will be responsible for the Department of Transport, consistent with his responsibility for the transport portfolio. Mr Menno Henneveld, the Commissioner for Main Roads, will commence in the role of director general of the new department in an acting capacity.

The Department for Planning and Infrastructure will be renamed the Department of Planning. The separation of the transport functions will allow the Department of Planning to focus on its core business of integrated land use and planning, and to take a lead role in ensuring better collaboration between agencies that have a role in planning issues.