

DEPARTMENT OF MINES, INDUSTRY REGULATION AND SAFETY — NAME CHANGE

Statement by Minister for Mines and Petroleum

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [9.11 am]: I am pleased to inform the house of the name change to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety. As of 1 December, it pleases me greatly that the department will be known as the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety. The addition of “Energy” to the department’s formal name reflects the importance of Western Australia’s energy sector to the Cook government. It also reflects the significant work of Energy Policy WA, which has been embedded in the department since 2022, and continues to lead the state’s energy transformation by delivering expert advice and initiatives to support the interests of WA’s energy consumers.

No structural change underpins this decision. It is low-cost but will have a high strategic impact. It publicly and strongly demonstrates the priority that this government places on energy and the energy transition. The Cook government is fully committed to Western Australia’s rapid energy transition, having committed \$2.8 billion in the recent state budget for renewable energy projects. The renaming will not affect the department’s other regulatory functions. It will continue to do the good work it does to support a safe, fair and responsible industry, energy and resources sector. Although the department’s acronym will change, with the insertion of “E” for energy, it is a happy stroke of luck that the pronunciation will remain “DEMIRS”.

I thank the team at Energy Policy WA for continuing to modernise WA’s energy sector in support of our commitment to net zero by 2050. We are proud that the new name recognises the importance of this work.