



Michael Gallacher MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for the Hunter

STATEMENT

Thursday 2 May 2013

GRAHAM BARR QC APPOINTED FIRST INSPECTOR OF THE CRIME COMMISSION

Minister for Police and Emergency Services Michael Gallacher today announced the appointment of the Honourable Graham Barr QC as the first Inspector of the Crime Commission.

“The Government has delivered on its commitment to reform the Crime Commission and we have now delivered on our commitment to have an Inspector appointed to oversee the organisation,” Minister Gallacher said.

“We now have a very strong team of people in place to lead the Commission as it continues to target organised crime.

“The appointment of Justice Barr is integral to the future of the Commission and the Government welcomes his appointment,” Minister Gallacher said.

The Inspector can deal with complaints about the conduct of the Crime Commission or its officers which concern impropriety, misconduct and maladministration.

There are a number of ways that the functions of the Inspector may be exercised. These may be:

- on the Inspector’s own initiative,
- at the Minister’s request,
- in response to a complaint made to the Inspector, or
- in response to a reference by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Ombudsman, the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission.

In order to carry out his functions, the Inspector may hold inquiries, and has the powers, authorities, protections and immunities conferred on a commissioner under the Royal Commissions Act.

Minister Gallacher said Justice Barr is an extremely experienced and distinguished member of the legal profession.

“Justice Barr has practiced as a barrister, Crown Prosecutor and is an acting Supreme Court Judge. He has also led the review of forensic procedures and forensic evidence in NSW.

“I am delighted that he has accepted a five year appointment as Inspector of the Crime Commission.

“The Inspector is held accountable through a reporting requirement to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Ombudsman, the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission.

“The appointment of the Inspector is a significant part of ensuring that the NSW Crime Commission will continue to be Australia’s most successful agency of its kind,” Minister Gallacher concluded.

MEDIA: Clint McGilvray 0413 285 186 or Tess Salmon 0467 740 017