



**David Elliott**  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **MICHAEL BARNES APPOINTED CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Michael Barnes has been appointed the new Commissioner of the New South Wales Crime Commission by Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott to undertake investigative work to reduce the incidence of organised and other serious crime across the state.

Mr Barnes' appointment follows an exemplary career in senior positions in the integrity sector, academia and the judiciary for over 25 years, including as a Magistrate for over a decade, a State Coroner and most recently as NSW Ombudsman.

"The appointment of Mr Barnes will provide a wealth of knowledge, experience and inquisitive expertise to the role of the Commissioner and the organisation's outstanding work in preventing, disrupting and reducing the incidence of organised and other serious crime, including proactively confiscating proceeds of crime," Mr Elliott said.

"In its 30 years of operation, approximately \$600 million worth of assets including cash, bank accounts, real property, cars and boats has been confiscated by the Commission, including a record \$40 million in the last 12 months alone."

The money raised by the Crime Commission is returned to the people of NSW to fund victim compensation, crime prevention programs, law enforcement operations and drug rehabilitation.

Mr Barnes welcomed the appointment and the challenges that lie ahead in continuing the Commission's crucial work in disbanding criminal activity.

"I am looking forward to working with the dedicated investigators and forensic experts to use the extensive powers of the Crime Commission to fight serious and organised crime," Mr Barnes said.

"An important weapon in the Crime Commission's armoury is its criminal assets recovery function, which is important given drug dealers and other crime gangs are primarily motivated by greed."

"You hit them where it hurts when you confiscate their ill-gotten gains and convert those proceeds of crime to public purposes."

Mr Barnes presided over some of the country's most well known inquests as State

Coroner in NSW and Queensland, including the death of Daniel Morcombe, the Sydney Lindt Café siege deaths and the MH-17 aircraft crash.

Minister Elliott also thanked outgoing Acting Commissioner Peter Cotter APM for his stellar work and commitment over the last few years.

“I express my deep gratitude to Acting Commissioner Peter Cotter who has done a tremendous job busting some of the biggest crime syndicates we have seen in NSW.”

Michael Barnes moves into his new role on August 24.