



David Elliott
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday, 12 July 2020

MASSIVE EFFORT TO PROTECT NSW BORDER CONTINUES

The large-scale police operation on the NSW/Victoria border is continuing, with police and emergency services facilitating the safe movement of more than 40,000 cars through 54 check points between Victoria and NSW in the period from Wednesday until Friday night.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, David Elliott, commended police and emergency services agencies for their efforts during this challenging time.

"The NSW Police Force and our emergency services have responded decisively to the COVID-19 spike unfolding in Victoria to protect the health and safety of NSW citizens," Mr Elliott said.

"The large-scale border closure operation saw the immediate deployment of 650 officers from across the state to support local police, with more than 350 Australian Defence Force personnel and the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and the State Emergency Service (SES) called to assist,"

"More than 270 cars have been turned around at the border and returned to Victoria. To date, only one person has been charged and no fines issued in relation to Operation Border Control."

On Wednesday, a 34-year-old man was arrested and charged after allegedly attempting to cross the border at Corowa without a permit and remains before the courts.

A number of additional arrests have been made in relation to offences detected at the border, including drink driving, weapon possession and drug possession.

"It's no secret that a high visibility operation is underway so it blows my mind that there are still people who chose to flout the law knowing full well that police will be stopping to check them," Mr Elliott Said.

Operation Border Control Commander, Assistant Commissioner Scott Whyte, said police will continue to work with local communities to ensure the safe flow of traffic between borders.

"We are dealing with a police operation that is dynamic and constantly evolving, and police are constantly assessing the operation with a view to being flexible with our

resources on the ground,” Assistant Commissioner Whyte said.

“We have thousands of vehicle movements facilitated every hour and we are working 24 hours a day to ensure the protection of our communities.”

The NSW Rural Fire service has provided a trailer which is being used as a mobile command vehicle for NSW Police carrying out border enforcement activities. The vehicle provides equipment and facilities for police to work from as they check vehicles and movements between Victoria and NSW.

The NSW State Emergency Service has also provided equipment to support the effort.

“Limiting the spread of COVID-19 is vital for the safety of the whole state and the officers and volunteers on our southern border are at the frontline and leading the charge, Mr Elliott said”

It is an offence for a person to fail to comply with an order, and severe penalties apply, which include a maximum penalty of up to \$11,000 and/or six months imprisonment for individuals.

The standard penalty will be a \$1000 fine by way of a Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN).

MEDIA: Mike Morrow | 0408 937 179