



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PO Box A1097, Sydney South, NSW 1232

PHONE: (02) 9265 6777 FAX: (02) 9265 6789

EAGLENET 57071

Monday 2nd December 2013

PRESS RELEASE

One Butt Too Many

The Police Association of NSW supports the NRMA crack down on aggravated littering and backs the need for significant toughening of fines and the introduction of demerit points for people who throw cigarette butts out of cars during the fire ban season.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said, "There should be harsher penalties as the current minimum penalty for aggravated littering (\$375 fine) is simply not tough enough. These idiots don't care and the message is not getting through.

"People who show such contempt for others, and threaten public safety by throwing cigarette butts out of a car window, especially during the fire ban season, deserve tougher penalties.

"If it takes heavier fines and demerit points to get the message across, then that is what needs to be done.

"Carelessly discarded cigarette butts are a frequent cause of fires. They can start preventable grass, scrub, rubbish and of more concern, bushfires.

"Even small fires can cause great damage to property and pose significant risk to lives.

"Police officers see the devastation and the grief families go through – it's bad enough losing a home but unimaginable to lose a loved one. You cannot rebuild lost lives.

"Premier Barry O'Farrell needs to introduce tougher penalties for aggravated littering, an issue which has public support.

"This initiative by the NRMA goes beyond keeping the place tidy, but keeping us safe from people who don't think and don't care that one butt may be all it takes to put us all at risk from fires."

Media contact: Alison McLaughlin, 0414 918 470