



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Cross Border Action Will Help Stop Scourge of Crime Gangs

Giving police and the courts greater powers to fight gang crime across the country will help put a stop to professional criminals exploiting the system and lead to reduction in the number of gang related crimes rocking NSW streets.

President of the Police Association of NSW Scott Weber said that harmonisation of anti-gang legislation, allowing police to stop criminals flouting the law by taking proceed of crime across borders to evade detection, is just common sense.

“The key to breaking the cycle of gang crime is to break their business model,” Mr Weber said. “Organised criminals are driven by profits – taking away the economic incentive for them to continue their law breaking ways will without doubt lead to a reduction in local crime gang activity.

“It’s about hitting criminals where it hurts - in the hip pocket.

“Police in NSW have been calling for a harmonised, common sense approach to organised crime for years. A proposal calling for action was given to both the Federal Government and the Opposition back in 2010 by the Police Federation of Australia. This is what police officers want and need.

The submission was given to the Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Inquiry into Commonwealth Unexplained Wealth Legislation and arrangements were made for all political parties to hear police officers concerns.

“Having one unified database and the ability to chase the profits of crime across borders will help police crackdown on career criminals.

“Cashed-up criminals have been thumbing their noses at police as the dodge and evade authorities by moving across borders. The lack of cohesion between the various jurisdictions has meant that police often feel like they’re being forced to fight these criminals with their hands tied behind their backs.

“This is about cutting red tape and giving police the powers they need to stop these crime gangs.

“The dirty money needs to goes back to states to be reinvested in community safety. The proceeds of crime should be used by the state governments to focus on crime prevention and for getting police officers on the streets.

The announcement of the Prime Minister’s plans to introduce national powers for police to seize cash and assets of crime comes just hours after shots were fired into a house in Western Sydney.

“Just last night we saw yet another drive by shooting in Western Sydney. Fortunately no one was hurt, but we’ve seen too many cases in recent times where we haven’t been so lucky.

“The community and police know that it’s critical that we put a stop to these criminal gangs. Giving police and the courts greater powers with which to do that is definitely a step in the right direction.”

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PRESS RELEASE