



## **POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

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### **CCTV Cameras to Stay On**

The Police Association of NSW today welcomed news the NSW Government is committed to protecting the safety and wellbeing of the community by ensuring the continued use of CCTV technology by councils.

The Government announced new regulations to exempt councils from parts of the Privacy Act. This announcement comes in response to a ruling by the Administrative Decisions Tribunal (ADT) that Shoalhaven Council's CCTV system in Nowra breached the Act and raised doubts about their legality.

The cameras, owned by Shoalhaven City Council and monitored by NSW Police, had been switched off after the ADT ruled privacy laws had been breached under the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998.

Minister for Local Government, Don Page MP said, "CCTV technology has widespread community support, assists police and also gives a sense of safety for the public - it also acts as a strong deterrent against criminal behaviour."

President of the PANSW, Scott Weber said, "It was good to see the Government take a common sense approach and rectify the ADT decision that does not protect the community."

He said, "CCTV was a vital tool in crime prevention as it frequently assisted police in prosecuting criminals who had been captured in the footage.

It allows police to move resources quickly to problematic locations to prevent trouble breaking out or to provide a quick response.

Nowra Police tell us the CCTV cameras have been of assistance in various investigations by confirming any evidence obtained from victim statements and enabling police to track the movements of the victim/offender using the CCTV cameras.

The ability to have a live feed from the cameras has enhanced police capacity to respond to incidents as they occur. It's being used as a proactive crime prevention tool.

Local councils are an important partner of the police in ensuring the safety and protection of local communities."

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**PRESS RELEASE**