



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Body Worn Video – Win for Police & Community

The Police Association of NSW today welcomed the announcement by the new Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Stuart Ayres, MP, that funds will be made available for body worn video (BWV) cameras for frontline police.

The Minister confirming \$4 million over two years to roll-out with legislative changes to be introduced to permit the use of this valuable equipment.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said, "Body Worn Video will help police fight crime and support victims.

"Video captures events in a way that can't be represented on paper in the same detail and it has been shown the presence of this type of video can often defuse potentially violent situations without the need for force to be used.

"It will also show police dealing with difficult and dangerous situations every day and it will also provide clearer evidence when it's been alleged that police got things wrong. That has to be in both our own and the community's interest.

"We campaigned hard for this equipment with trials of BWV providing many benefits for police officers and the community:

- Changes in behaviour of potential offenders by virtue of merely being recorded;
- Providing police and members of the public with an independent and accurate recording of events;
- Reduction in frivolous claims against police for misconduct whilst undertaking their duties.

"The cameras would likely bring swifter justice for victims, especially in domestic abuse cases, as people were more likely to plead guilty when they know the incident has been filmed.

"The PANSW also welcomes the commitment from the Minister to continue to fund the roll-out of mobile Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology with an extra \$7 million allocated over the next two years for the continued rollout of mobile ANPR.

"Police who already use this technology know its benefits and it frees up police to undertake other duties while plates are scanned and details cross-checked on the database. Information provided also lets officers know if precautionary action is necessary before approaching a vehicle.

"Most importantly, safety for police officers is improved, as officers would otherwise be operating equipment on the side of busy roads.

"We look forward to working with the Government to achieve improved resources and investment in technology for frontline police."

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PRESS RELEASE