



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PO Box A1097, Sydney South, NSW 1232

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

EAGLENET 57071

Tuesday 21st January 2014

Action on Alcohol-fuelled Violence

The Police Association of NSW (PANSW) today welcomed the common sense approach and decisive action by Premier, Barry O'Farrell to address the escalating problem of alcohol-fuelled violence.

Measures such as Sydney CBD lockouts, a freeze on new licences and the closure of bottle shops state-wide at 10pm are what the people of NSW have asked for and that is what the NSW Government have delivered.

Mandatory minimum jail sentences of eight years for alcohol or drug-fuelled "one punch" assaults will also be introduced. A special sitting of Parliament next week will introduce these measures. This is decisive action from the Premier, the Minister of Police and the Attorney General in protecting the community and emergency service workers.

The changes affect an expanded CBD precinct which spans from Kings Cross to Darling Harbour. No new liquor is to be approved in the zone and "periodic" risk-based licensing will be introduced for some venues.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said, "These raft of measures including a 1:30am lockout of licensed premises and drinks stopped being served at 3am are exactly what the city of Sydney needs.

"Every weekend we are forced to pick up the pieces, phone parents and even deal with becoming the victims of violence and abuse ourselves. Now we see the Government taking real action in dealing with alcohol related violence.

"Assault against police officers while doing their job will now attract a maximum sentence of seven years and a minimum sentence of two years and sends the strongest message to those who think violence towards officers is acceptable.

"Today's suite of measures is a win for the community and for all police officers who protect the community.

"We have been in ongoing conversations with the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Michael Gallacher and the Attorney General, Greg Smith on these issues and applaud the strong stance shown by both, along with the Premier these two MPs have lead the way in seeing these measures through the mine field of stakeholders and delivering real change in regard to alcohol-fuelled violence.

"The PANSW will continue to work with the Government to curb alcohol fuelled violence and address the concerns of police officers and the community."

Media contact: Alison McLaughlin, 0414 918 470

PRESS RELEASE