



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PO Box A1097, Sydney South, NSW 1232

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

EAGLENET 57070

Thursday 2nd April 2015

New Minister for Justice and Police

The Police Association of NSW has welcomed new Minister for Justice and Police, Troy Grant to the portfolio after the Deputy Premier and former country police officer was sworn in today as part of Premier Baird's new-look front bench.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said, "The Association is looking forward to developing a productive working relationship with the new Minister and Mr Grant, a former member of the NSW Police Force, brings valuable policing experience with him.

"We would like to thank outgoing Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Stuart Ayres, for his contribution to the policing environment over the past 10 months and wish him well in his new role.

"It's been a testing time for police with the increase in the terror threat alert within Australia, and the attacks which have taken place both here and internationally. There is no question the potential threats police now face on the job go beyond the inherent dangers of the profession.

"We have entered a new era of violent acts and the escalating threat to all police not only encompasses heightened security threats, but includes rising violence from a number of quarters, including assaults while undertaking routine daily duties.

"More so now than ever, policing needs strong leadership and strong representation from the Government, the Minister and the NSW Police Hierarchy. The stresses of modern policing are taking a toll on frontline officers.

"The disturbing popularity of Ice is a game changer for police. As its use spirals out of control, police, ambulance paramedics, doctors and nurses are increasingly being confronted by violent, aggressive users.

"Traditional policing methods don't work and users often require chemical and mechanical restraint to even get anywhere near them. Extra police numbers are essential if we are to keep the crime rate down especially when frontline troops are tied up dealing with Ice-related crimes, which range from property thefts to violent psychotic reactions.

"The Government and the new Minister must detail how they plan to fix the critical shortage of police in many of our communities rather than arbitrarily moving officers out of Sydney which will threaten community safety in our suburbs. We can solve this issue by investing in more police for rural and regional areas. Sydney suburbs shouldn't lose their local constables and sergeants to fill holes in country and regional NSW when police are already overstretched.

"The pre-election commitment to deliver an extra 130 officers was a move in the right direction in demonstrating the Government's ongoing commitment to ensuring public safety in NSW. However, just to keep up with population growth NSW needs 247 more police each year. Premier Baird needs to tell the community he has a plan to deliver 247 police to towns and suburbs across the state this year and every year.

"With the terror alert set at high, dealing with existing crime and proactive policing, the thin blue line can only be stretched so far. Insufficient police numbers remains a real problem and both the Government and the NSWPF need to acknowledge that extra police numbers is the solution."

Media contact: Alison McLaughlin – 0414 918 470

PRESS RELEASE