



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

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### **Gosford Court Safety – Common Sense Prevails**

**PRESS RELEASE**

The Police Association of NSW has welcomed the decision from the presiding Judiciary of Gosford Court allowing police officers to wear their appointments in Court.

This follows negotiations with the local branch of the Police Association and judicial officers attached to the Court.

Police Association of NSW Executive Member, Dean Koenig said, “The announcement is timely given last week’s serious terrorism related offences in Sydney, current heightened security warnings and subsequent direction for police to carry their appointments due to escalating threats.

“The face of policing has forever changed and this includes policing outside the major metropolitan centres. The risks are real and not theoretical and extend to all local communities.

“Courthouses can be pressure cooker environments and police need to be properly equipped when confronted with a violent situation.

“This is a common sense approach by the local judiciary and their directive supports police in doing their job of protecting court officials and people attending Gosford Court.

“However the current protocol across NSW strictly prohibits police officers wearing, or carrying firearms in court buildings. There is no doubt this leaves police and the public vulnerable and left exposed to danger while at court.

“Judges, Magistrates and court officials can’t always control what happens in the courtroom.

“The broader judiciary need to follow the example set by their colleagues in Gosford and provide the same protection to Courts across NSW.

“More so now than at any time, police need to be equipped with the tools and provided the resources they need to protect the people of New South Wales.

“The Association will not waiver in our commitment to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of all NSW Police Officers.”

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