



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

**PO Box A1097, Sydney South, NSW 1232**

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

**EAGLENET 57070**

*Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015*

### **Police Officers warned of unsafe work practice**

The Police Association of NSW is calling on the NSW Commissioner of Police to protect police officers by stopping unsafe work practices.

The NSW Heads of Court have refused to change the current protocol prohibiting police wearing their firearms and appointments in NSW Courts.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said, "This is an important safety issue raised and campaigned by us over many months, however, our members, the workers and their representatives haven't been consulted.

"The issue is being discussed behind closed doors by lawyers and the Government with no input from the very officers being placed at risk.

"Today we are appealing to the Commissioner of Police to resolve this issue and direct his officers and our members to cease this unsafe working practice. We expect that the Commissioner will continue to support his workers in their efforts to protect themselves and the public.

"We are asking our members who are required to attend court to consider their options to address this unsafe work practice. There is an option to seek leave to enter the Court while wearing their arms and appointments.

"If leave is not granted, officers should report the matter to their Supervisor and seek a direction from their Supervisor.

"In the interim the Association will continue to consider its available options for resolving this important issue.

"The Commissioner and his executive team have tried to resolve this issue for our members. Once it was brought to their attention they engaged with many stakeholders in control of Courts and their security, so far without success. We thank the Commissioner and his team in their efforts so far in seeking a resolution.

"It's time for the Attorney General and the Minister for Justice and Police to put Police officer safety and that of the public above politics.

"This is a significant safety concern and it has reached a deadlock. We now call on the Premier to intervene and allow the carriage of firearms in all Courts around the state to deliver police, and all those attending Courts around the state, the protection and security they deserve."

**Media contact: Alison McLaughlin – 0414 918 470**

**PRESS RELEASE**