



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PO Box A1097, Sydney South, NSW 1232

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

EAGLENET 57070

Tuesday, 21 June 2016

NSW State Budget: Safety and Security

The Police Association of NSW (PANSW) today welcomed Budget announcements by the Government to fund improvements to police stations, upgrade station security, build new facilities, and the roll out of 14,000 Integrated Light Armour Vests, (ILAVs).

Six million dollars allocated this year to fund the new super-light load bearing vests which are bullet and stab-resistant and can be worn concealed under uniforms while remaining undetected to the naked eye.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said, "This is welcome news on an issue we have pursued on behalf of members for some time. It comes as we have seen an increase in threats against police and the people of NSW.

"Police are a large part of the frontline of Australia's fight against terror. Recent terror attacks, both here and internationally, serve as a sobering reminder of the ever present risks associated with policing, and that police are not immune from being targeted by those who seek to do serious harm.

"The PANSW has lobbied Government to deliver greater protection for police and better tools and infrastructure to help them do their jobs, and this budget has started this process.

"The Budget dedicates \$57 million in 2016-17 for new or upgraded police stations including Mount Druitt, Queanbeyan, Gunnedah, Bay and Basin, Moss Vale, Deniliquin, Lake Macquarie Local Area Command, Liverpool, Riverstone, Taree, Tweed Heads, Walgett and Coffs Harbour, and also money for important security upgrades to several stations.

"It's pleasing to see the Government recognising that there have been police working in dilapidated stations and putting up with sub-standard conditions over a number of years.

"Capital spending includes \$13 million this year to increase the NSW Police Force's aerial surveillance and response capability, \$29 million to replace the majority of the NSW Police Force's ageing marine fleet, and \$15 million for a new home for the Police Dog Unit in Sydney's West.

"The Policing for Tomorrow technology fund gets a \$36 million injection this year to continue the \$100 million, four-year program to fund items such as body-worn video cameras.

"Anti-domestic violence funding of \$44 million over four years which includes GPS tracking of high-risk offenders, will help police to change behaviours of higher-risk offenders and NSW Police Domestic Violence High Risk Offender Teams across the state.

"A previous announcement by Police Minister, Deputy Premier Troy Grant confirming no 1.5% Efficiency Dividend would be applied to the NSWPF Budget was a positive step. A 1.5% 'dividend' would have seen over \$40 million slashed from the NSWPF Budget. We welcome the leadership the Deputy Premier has shown by quarantining the Police Budget from cuts.

"We look forward to working with the Government to protect the people of NSW from evolving brutal tactics by terrorists, and improve police officer safety through future capital works announcements, improved security measures, equipment and ongoing training.

"This Budget is a win for local communities and adds an additional layer of protection for police in the current climate of terrorism risk. It continues our solid relationship with this Government on policing issues and the strong direction of law and order in NSW."

Media contact Alison McLaughlin, 0414 918 470

PRESS RELEASE