



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PO Box A1097, Sydney South, NSW 1232

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

EAGLENET 57070

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Streamlined Police Oversight

The Police Association of NSW (PANSW) today welcomed the passage of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC) Bill through State Parliament on Tuesday.

The creation of a single oversight body will see the Police Integrity Commission (PIC) abolished, and the function of the PIC and Police Division of the Office of the Ombudsman absorbed by the LECC.

Police Association of NSW (PANSW) President, Scott Weber, said, "This is a significant outcome for all police officers across the state. We have consistently campaigned for a fair police oversight system, one that is effective without denying police officers' procedural fairness.

"For too long, the multi-agency system of police oversight has subjected police to multiple investigations, delayed resolutions, unreliable outcomes, and unjustifiable damage to officers' careers and wellbeing.

"We have engaged in extensive consultation with all political parties and representatives to ensure the LECC Bill is fair, and prevents the mistakes of the past system.

"The PANSW acknowledges Deputy Premier & Minister for Justice and Police, The Hon Troy Grant MP for his support and tireless efforts to streamline oversight of law enforcement across the State.

"The Deputy Premier recognised the confusion, inefficiencies and failures of the current system and his support during the lengthy consultation process to secure this outcome will deliver natural justice and procedural fairness to police.

"Former NSW Shadow Attorney General, Andrew Tink AM and Rev. The Hon Fred Nile MLC, leader of the Christian Democratic Party, both contributed extensively to the Bill and their efforts in supporting a single oversight body have been of great consequence.

"It's due to the commitment of these people and support from the Government during the review process that the people of NSW and police now have the legislative framework needed for an effective and fair police oversight system.

"It is now crucial to ensure the new Law Enforcement Conduct Commission does not replicate the mistakes of the past agencies. The LECC must begin with a new culture of professionalism and accuracy, and a respect for lawful procedures and the truth. This will only be achieved if staff from the Police Integrity Commission and Police Division of the Office of the Ombudsman are not employed by the LECC.

"This new culture must be fostered by the creation of extensive Commission policies, establishing standard procedures for the Commission's use of all coercive and covert powers, and the conduct of the Commission during hearings.

"Only then can police have full confidence in an impartial police oversight system that is transparent, professional and effective while providing accountability."

Media contact Alison McLaughlin, 0414 918 470

PRESS RELEASE