



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

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### **PANSW WELCOMES NEW COMMISSIONER**

The Police Association of NSW (PANSW), today welcomed the appointment of Michael Fuller as NSW Police Commissioner.

Mr Fuller has served as Sydney Metropolitan Region Commander & Southern Region Commander and previously acted as Deputy Commissioner. He has a breadth of experience that will prove invaluable, especially during a time of significant reforms currently underway to the NSW Police Force's (NSWPF) structure.

Reengineering the NSWPF is aimed at delivering police on the ground where and when they're needed – this means communities will reap the safety benefits. The PANSW has been calling for a transparent and objective resource allocation model that takes into account changing demographics and population growth and allocates resources accordingly, not only in Sydney, but across NSW.

Police Association President, Scott Weber, said, "The process to modernise the NSWPF is progressing and we look forward to working with Mr Fuller as a matter of priority to advance this and deliver a better policing model for the community.

"It's essential there is an end to the boom and bust cycle of police numbers. Police numbers should be increased strategically to meet the growing needs of community as determined by an accurate and transparent allocation model.

"The NSWPF needs a full audit as this will show where the priority lies for staffing and enable the new Commissioner and the NSWPF hierarchy to urgently address critical police shortages. In NSW over 550 officers are missing from frontline policing duties in three metropolitan regions alone – let alone the numbers required in country regions to address emerging needs.

"We are seeing workload stress in many locations across the city & country which is taking a toll on police officers. Police have become the 24/7 universal problem solvers in the communities they serve, frequently called to fill the gaps in the mental health and social services areas, whose resources are so stretched they can no longer provide a 24 hour response.

"Community based policing has been at the forefront of NSWPF strategy for over 30 years. This strategy is in decline across the State due to the lack of Police Officers to respond to increasing calls for assistance from the public.

"Police have worked hard to keep crime levels either falling or stable over the last 20 years, but this can't last forever. New South Wales currently has a Police to public ratio of 1 police officer for every 464 people, the second worst in the country.

"To be future-ready we must be prepared for the ongoing challenges and risks faced from a variety of fronts, whether originating from a person, extremist group, the mentally ill and/or drug-affected individuals or a direct home-grown terrorism threat.

"What is needed is clear direction and clear leadership - We look forward to working with Mr Fuller to implement a NSWPF structure that delivers meaningful reform towards an organised, trained, and well-equipped police force committed to protecting the community."

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**PRESS RELEASE**