



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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INVERELL POLICE STATION: NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE

The Inverell Branch of the Police Association of NSW (PANSW) are calling on the State Government to progress the building of a new police station at Inverell saying a commitment to fund is long overdue.

Inverell Police Station was built in 1969 for use by 14 officers, today there are close to 50 officers working in what can only be described as inadequate, uncomfortable and cramped conditions. The only way to meet the community's policing needs is to build a larger and more modern 24-hour police station for the region's fast growing population.

Police Association Western Organiser, Rod Sheraton said, "Our members are working in conditions that would not be tolerated in other working environments. Toilet facilities are wholly inadequate whilst ground floor toilets in the station have nil heating/cooling or powered ventilation.

"Storage, both general and secure has been overlooked as has the detail of a fire escape from the top floor to ground floor and a lift to provide access for injured officers, people with limited mobility and court staff with large volumes of paperwork.

"Only five or six people can be in the meal room at any time. This is further exacerbated due to the detectives having nowhere to take their meals.

"There is only one formal interview room, the roof leaks in sections across the station, and the car park floods. A tiny out dated muster room with only three computers including tired and broken furniture is a further sad indictment overall.

"Quite simply, the layout is counterproductive to modern policing and a professional working environment - the front counter only permits one officer to serve one member of the public at a time."

In a speech to State Parliament in 2015 local MP, Adam Marshall said, "*Now is the time for a larger and more modern station to be provided to meet the community's policing needs—not just now, but for the next 50 years as the community continues to grow and the police contingent at the station continues to increase.*"

In December that year, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Troy Grant MP toured the station to see the conditions local police were subjected to. He acknowledged conditions had worsened since he relieved there as a police officer years before. The Minister said there was every chance in the world Inverell would get the new police station.

"While our members acknowledge the speeches and the tours there needs to be more than a passing political will, we need the money allocated in the Police Property Budget. Unless the State Government allocates the funds for a new station it will be years before any real progress is made."

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PRESS RELEASE