



**POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES**  
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Monday, 23 July 2018

**BACK  
THE  
BLUE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **COWRA POLICE NUMBERS: NO INCREASE IN 15 YEARS**

The Cowra Branch of the Police Association of NSW (PANSW) is calling for additional staff to be allocated to Cowra as a matter of priority.

It's time the NSW Police Force (NSWPF) and the NSW Government delivered to provide more police and resources to ensure a safe and secure community for Cowra. The Cowra district stations of Gooloogong, Canowindra and Woodstock rarely see their station open as their officers are constantly required to work at Cowra to compensate for lack of police numbers.

The Cowra Branch developed an in-depth staffing proposal calling for a staged increase of police attached to Cowra and presented this to the NSWPF hierarchy. The NSWPF acknowledged the staffing issues within Cowra but as yet have not provided additional resources.

Cowra has not seen an increase in policing numbers since August 2003, however NSWPF numbers have increased during this time by 1,910 officers.

PANSW Western Region Organiser, Rod Sheraton, said, "The Cowra community and surrounding areas have for too long suffered with well above average crime rates - NSW Crime Statistics for 2012-2016 show the area is over represented in both property crime and violent offences.

"Compounding current workload issues, Cowra is not serviced by Correctional Services, meaning Cowra police officers are required to transport all bail refused prisoners to either Bathurst, Wellington, Junee or Dubbo, taking police away from the community of Cowra for hours at a time.

"Further, Cowra Court has no Audio-Visual Link (AVL), which means Cowra police are required to pick up prisoners required for court from Bathurst Correctional Centre, manage the prisoners throughout the day, escort them to and from court and return them to Bathurst at the end of the day.

"It is critical Cowra has appropriate staffing levels to prevent crime, keep the community safe and protect officers who are on the frontline responding to calls for assistance. Our members live and work in the region, have strong local ties and are concerned for their community.

"Local police are frustrated with the lack of progress in addressing the staffing shortfalls. We owe it to local police and the Cowra community to secure a commitment and clear timeline to increase police numbers."

**PANSW COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN LAUNCH TOMORROW:  
10AM**

Tuesday, 24 July 2018.

Outside Cowra Police Station, 86-88 Brisbane Street, COWRA NSW 2794

**Media contact Rod Sheraton: 0402 261 887**