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Threat to long service leave taken off the table

The Police Association of New South Wales (PANSW) has expressed appreciation that an attempt by the Government to deny current long service leave provisions to future generations of Police officers was overturned in the Legislative Council on Thursday night ([20 June 2019](#)).

While current Police officers would still be able to access the same extended leave after serving their first 10 years, new officers commencing after 1 July this year would have had that entitlement reduced by 40%.

PANSW president Tony King: “We were shocked that at the same time as Treasurer Dominic Perrottet spoke out in his Budget rhetoric this week about Police being the heart and soul of the workforce, he also moved to strip reasonable long service leave entitlements away from the new cohorts of future Police officers about to begin their careers as funded by the same Budget.

“Long-serving Police need the dignity of time for the respite, recovery and self-care needed towards their long-term welfare and well-being. Extended leave provides enough genuine time out for them to recharge their batteries, reconnect with families and also look at opportunities to develop allied skills and education. It’s a must-have and should never be traded off.

Mr King praised the efforts of fair-minded politicians on the cross-benches of Parliament in taking the extremely backwards step off the table, with full acknowledgement to The Greens for moving the necessary amendment, along with support from the ALP, One Nation and Shooters, Fishers and Farmers.

“This now takes away a negative aspect of the Budget which otherwise delivered effectively on a significant boost to frontline staffing – as lobbied for by PANSW – and a spend of \$100 million on upgrading infrastructure across the State, such as Police stations in Bega, Goulburn, Jindabyne area, Bourke and Bathurst, and a new education and training facility at Dubbo.

“This is nothing less than the scale of investment needed on an ongoing basis to fight crime and keep the NSW public safe”.

Media contact:

Stephen Olsen | PANSW Communications Coordinator | Mobile: 0488 009 805