



MEDIA RELEASE: 10 September 2018

Urgent police increase needed to stop state's ice terror

Police are calling for an immediate doubling in the number of police officers dedicated to dealing with the state's ice epidemic, which is destroying a generation of children and tearing families apart.

Police Association of NSW President Tony King today released a list of crystal-meth regional hot-spots, calling for an additional 1185 police in Police Districts and Commands across the state.

The Association is also calling for an additional 114 police designated to dedicated units to focus on interrupting the supply of the drug.

"Every police officer knows how all-pervasive ice has become. It dominates our work, it has links to domestic violence, mental health incidents, road fatalities, youth crime, house and business break ins, organised crime and it is destroying lives. These are the symptoms of the prevalence of ice in our communities," Mr King said.

"Local police are so stretched that they're drowning, just dealing with the symptoms of ice and users rather than focusing their efforts on the supply chain.

"All we can do at the moment is mop up the problems, rather than getting to the root of the issue and stopping the drugs before they hit out streets.

"That's why we need additional Police on our front line in every district and command where ice has taken hold.

"We also need a doubling of police numbers in the Regional Enforcement Squads designed to disrupt and detect the manufacturers and suppliers of this horrible drug, with an extra 72 officers in regional NSW and 42 additional officers in the Sydney metropolitan area.

"The NSW Government has a choice – it can either sit back and watch while this drug continues to take hold of our communities, or it can listen to the police on the ground and deliver the additional resources we need to keep our streets safe.

"Ice is a problem everywhere in the state, but our regional areas are shouldering the brunt of the scourge. If we're serious about tackling our ice problem, we need the resources to be able to focus on the drug dealers – the people pedalling this poison in our communities.

"Regional towns need specialised, targeted plans and resources to deal with ice. When it comes to dedicated police resourcing to deal with drug crime, our regions are missing out.

"Our communities are crying out for action, and all we as police are asking for are the resources we need to keep our communities safe," Mr King said.

The call for dedicated ice officers is part of the 'Back the Blue' campaign for 2500 extra police across NSW.

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See over for list of ice hotspots>>>



Ice hotspots across the state

(based on incidents of use/possess amphetamines per 100,000 population, calendar year up to Dec 2017)

- Narrandera – Murrumbidgee Police District
- Broken Hill – Barrier Police District
- Gilgandra – Orana Mid Western Police District
- Edward River (Deniliquin) – Murray River Police District
- Cessnock – Hunter Valley Police District
- Moree Plains – New England Police District
- Warrumbungle Shire (Coonabarrabran) – Orana Mid Western Police District
- Tweed – Tweed Byron Police District
- Muswellbrook – Hunter Valley Police District
- Goulburn Mulwaree – Hume Police District

Raymond Terrace is one of our fastest emerging areas – Port Stephens – Hunter PD