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Press Statement re Tasers

Members are advised that the following press statement was released today in response to media reports of the decision by Government to expand the issue of Tasers to all front line police. We have not been provided with details of the proposal and have sought that the Government fully consult regarding the rollout. Nevertheless the announcement represents a significant breakthrough in the campaign by your Association for this equipment to be issued. In particular it represents a positive response to the launch last week of our savings plan to fund the salary increases without trade offs. It is critical that members now assist by lobbying your local politicians via the www.keepourcops.org.au web site to ensure the savings generated by this initiative are used to fund the pay round.

Statement

Police have today welcomed the announcement that all frontline police will be provided with Tasers but say the financial savings of the move must be channelled into back into community protection.

Police Association of NSW President Bob Pritchard said the move will save lives.

“It’s great that the Premier has stepped up and done what’s right for both police and the community. It’ll mean fewer families will lose loved ones and fewer police will have to live with the knowledge that they have taken a life.”

Mr Pritchard said providing police with Tasers will also help dramatically decrease the number of assaults on police officers.

“More than 3,000 assaults are committed on police each year. Providing police with Tasers will cut that number by as much as half.

“The move will save the State Government more than \$93 million per annum in workers compensation costs alone - money that must be channelled straight back into policing as part of current wage negotiations. On top this, there will be big savings from fewer Coroner’s Court Hearings and investigations.

“It’s pleasing that the Government have taken heed of at least one part of the Working Smarter submission we presented them with last week”.

“The benefits of this announcement are enormous. Not only will lives be saved, but it also means the State Government can move away from its plans to strip police of vital conditions such as protection for injured officers as a means of saving money to fund police pay. This is a great move, but now it’s crucial that the government directs the money saved straight back into policing and not into government coffers.”

“Too many officers who have served on the frontline know what it’s like to have to discharge their firearm, knowing that it could cost someone’s life. Up until today they’ve had no choice but now they’ll have another option available to them.”

Bob Pritchard
President

www.keepourcops.org.au