

MEDIA RELEASE

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BUDGET BACKS IN OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE

The NSW Budget delivers combined recurrent and capital expenditure of \$3.7 billion for the NSW Police Force in 2017-18, including funding to modernise the force and improve officer safety.

Minister for Police Troy Grant said this year's budget reflects the Liberals & Nationals Government's ongoing commitment to improving community safety.

"The Liberals & Nationals Government is absolutely committed to providing our police officers with the support and resources they need to do their job," Mr Grant said.

"Since 2011, this Government has invested heavily in supporting police, and providing them with the tools and equipment required to combat crime, and as a result, we have seen crime rates continue to drop.

"We are on track to boost the authorised strength of the NSW Police Force to 16,795 over this term. 938 positions have already been delivered since May 2011."

This year's budget dedicates \$41 million to works on building new police stations or refurbishing existing stations in Bay and Basin, Deniliquin, Gunnedah, Mount Druitt, Queanbeyan, Southern Highlands, Taree, Tweed Heads and Waverley.

\$51 million will support the ongoing implementation of the \$100 million four-year Policing For Tomorrow Technology Fund. This includes the continued rollout of body worn video cameras to record evidence that may support criminal investigations, hand-held narcotic analysers for fast and accurate results in testing for illicit substances, mobile tablet computers and fingerprint scanners.

"The Policing For Tomorrow Fund is all about providing our men and women in blue with state-of-the-art technology to fight crime and enhance officer mobility," Mr Grant said.

The Government will invest \$15 million to build the capacity of the NSW Police Force aerial surveillance and counter-terrorism capability.

The budget will also see \$10 million allocated as part of the \$29 million upgrade and replacement of the Marine Area Command vessel fleet to improve marine safety.

“Water safety is crucial following the tragic summer of drownings in NSW, and we will always support this indispensable arm of the NSW Police Force in monitoring and protecting our waterways.”

\$5 million will be allocated to the provision of integrated light armoured vests for officers, enhancing their protection on the frontline.

An additional \$5 million will contribute to the \$29 million upgrade and replacement of general duties and specialist police vehicles, strengthening NSW Police Force efforts in crime prevention and reducing the road toll towards zero.

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