

Tuesday, 22 June 2021

## **BUDGET INVESTS IN POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

The NSW Government has announced \$4.7 billion in funding for the NSW Police Force to ensure the safety and wellbeing of communities across the state, including a record capital expenditure of \$389 million.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott said this year's Budget would support officers in the field and ensure the state continues to be serviced by a world class policing organisation, focused on community safety and the prevention of crime.

The Budget includes a \$54.5 million investment, as part of a \$100 million election commitment, for the following capital projects:

- New police stations in Bega, Goulburn, Jindabyne, Perisher and Thredbo;
- Significant upgrades to police stations in Bathurst and Bourke; and
- An education and training facility in Dubbo to ensure police officers receive the very best training.

The Budget also includes \$41.5 million for an additional 250 police officers who will hit the streets during 2021-2022, part of the NSW Government's \$583 million commitment to recruit 1500 police over four years.

Other NSW Police Force funding commitments include:

- Nearly \$19 million for phase 2 of the Marine Vessel Replacement Program;
- \$12 million over two years for a new police station in Singleton; and
- \$60 million (as part of a \$107.9 million Multipurpose Police Station Program) to continue redeveloping metropolitan and regional police stations across NSW.

"With a record \$389 million allocated to capital expenditure alone, the NSW Police Force will have the infrastructure and technology to keep our communities safe."

"Last year we officially opened Inverell Police Station as part of the Multipurpose Police Station Program and in the upcoming year, we will see the Broken Hill Police Station redevelopment and work on Port Macquarie Police Station commence."

Mr Elliott said the Budget also includes funding to commence a three-year pilot of the Optional Disengagement Scheme.

"The ground-breaking Optional Disengagement Scheme will mean that officers who have served ten or more years will be able to leave the Force with dignity and certainty," Mr Elliott said.

Commissioner Mick Fuller APM welcomed today's Budget announcement saying the NSW Police Force has never been in a better position to face the policing challenges ahead.

“Additional police positions and a strong investment into critical police infrastructure place us in a strong position to face emerging crime issues and better protect our communities,” Commissioner Fuller said.

“Last financial year, as part of the \$49.8 million Future Light Helicopter Program we took delivery of three new helicopters.

“The PoAir fleet now consists of five helicopters and three fixed wing aircraft that service an area of more than 800,000 square kilometres.

“This advanced technology assists us with major crime investigations and search and rescue missions to strengthen our ability to prevent, disrupt and respond to crime to keep New South Wales safe,” Commissioner Fuller said.

Funding also includes a \$19 million investment, as part of a \$60 million project, to upgrade the Goulburn Police Academy and refurbish student accommodation and classroom facilities.

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