



AFPA BULLETIN:

AFPA Pres Welcomes Police Measures in ACT Budget

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The Australian Federal Police Association welcomes several initiatives announced in Tuesday's ACT Budget relating to ACT Policing. In particular, the AFPA strongly supports the funding of additional police officers to ensure that responsible service of alcohol practices are observed at licensed premises on weekends. The Association also notes with approval the establishment of a dedicated Automated Number Plate Recognition Team to enhance road safety and an allocation of \$14.2 million for a new police station in Belconnen.

As part of its "Liquor Reforms for a Safer Community" program, the ACT Government has announced an extra \$6.3 million over four years to assist ACT Policing to inspect licensed premises on weekends.

AFPA National president Jon Hunt-Sharman lauded the move stating:

"I am very supportive of the Liquor Bill 2010 that is currently before the Legislative Assembly and it is pleasing to see that the Government recognises the need for additional police in order to support these measures and protect our community."

In line with its support, the Association has just submitted a response to the draft of the *Liquor Bill 2010*. While this document is largely positive regarding the steps taken in the Bill, the AFPA has nevertheless recommended a number of additional measures that will strengthen the Bill and better protect our members and the community from alcohol-induced crime and anti-social behavior.

With regard to the \$4.1 million that will be used over the next four years to establish an Automated Number Plate Recognition Team, Mr. Hunt-Sharman said:

"ANPR is a highly effective new technology and has proved to be an essential crime fighting tool. The ACT has a high incidence of motor vehicle theft compared to other jurisdictions and the introduction of a dedicated ANPR Team will ensure that the AFP tracks down more unregistered, uninsured and stolen vehicles and takes dangerous criminals off our roads."

Mr. Hunt Sharman went on to say:

"I am additionally pleased with the \$14.2 million that has been set aside for the development of a new police station in Belconnen. I have personally raised concerns over a number of years regarding the derelict state of the current facilities and it is good to see that something is finally happening on this issue."

The AFPA believes that many of the positive outcomes for ACT Policing in the 2010 – 2011 Budget are a direct result of the close professional relationships that have been cultivated between the AFPA and several key stakeholders including the Attorney-General Simon Corbell as well as MLAs from all sides of politics.

Mr. Hunt-Sharman concluded by observing:

"It is good to see that action is being taken on our recommendations. From a law enforcement point of view, today's budget is good news for ACT Police and it is good news for the broader community. I look forward to working with the Government and Opposition moving forward to ensure that the AFP officers are adequately resourced and supported in fulfilling their vital duties."

If you have any comments on this bulletin or any other queries please contact your local representatives or the AFPA National Office on afpa.office@afpa.org.au.

Authorised by

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