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## AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE ASSOCIATION MEDIA RELEASE

### NEW CHIEF POLICE OFFICER FOR ACT POLICING

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) acknowledges the appointment of Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM to the position of Chief Police Officer for the ACT, taking over the role from Assistant Commissioner Ray Johnson APM.

AFPA President Angela Smith said that she has enjoyed working with Assistant Commissioner Johnson and the appointment of Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan was a good outcome for ACT Policing.

“It has been a pleasure working with Ray since 2018 when he was appointed the ACT Chief Police Officer and I wish him all the best as he takes on new challenges within the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA). His 35-year policing career will be valuable and well aligned with ACT ESA and I’m sure he’ll make many positive contributions in his new role.

“I welcome Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan APM to the role and look forward to continuing our relationship, which has formed over the past few years. I especially look forward to working with him on issues such as police numbers, ACT Policing facilities, legislation reform and welfare,” AFPA President Angela Smith said.

AFPA President Angela Smith said that the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner to the role of Chief Police Officer was an important outcome and would benefit the community and ACT Policing.

“Elevating the rank of this position from Assistant Commissioner to Deputy Commissioner will allow for ACT Policing to become more active at national policing conferences and meetings. This is a positive strategic decision by Commissioner Kershaw and demonstrates just how important and valuable the role of the Chief Police Officer is to the Australian Federal Police.

“Previously having an Assistant Commissioner in the role was disadvantageous as the gap in rank between them and Commissioner was too great. Police forces cannot have two Commissioners, so this is the next best outcome for ACT Policing,” AFPA President Angela Smith said.

#### For comments:

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