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Australian Federal Police Association

AFPA welcomes Canberra Liberals commitment for an upgraded Gungahlin Police Station

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) welcomes the Canberra Liberals' announcement of an upgraded police station for Gungahlin.

The AFPA is seeking five election commitments from all parties, being:

- More police on patrol
- New ACT Policing facilities
- Tougher penalties for assaulting police officers
- Opposition to the AFP wage freeze
- Permanent funding for the Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) initiative

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that the AFPA has been calling on the government for several years regarding the inadequacy of Gungahlin Station - with those calls falling on deaf ears.

“The ACT Policing members of Gungahlin Station have been operating out of a poorly designed and tiny police station for far too long, and this commitment from the Canberra Liberals is the first real action we’ve seen that will fix the issue.”

“Gungahlin is a rapidly expanding district and the numbers of police officers in Gungahlin haven’t met that growth. One of the biggest hurdles ACT Policing face in adding additional officers to Gungahlin patrols is that the police station in its current design can’t physically house any more officers.” Mr Caruana said.

The AFPA recently learned that the meal table that the officers eat at is also used as an exhibit handling workstation.

“Police officers having to use their meal table as an exhibit handling table is mind-blowing, and not in a good way. Imagine sorting contaminated material on the table and then a short time later, eating your meal at the same table. The members of Gungahlin deserve better.”



The AFPA believes that the community has also been short-changed due to the poor quality of Gungahlin Station. Gungahlin also has the smallest patrol strength when compared to every other station in the ACT, despite Gungahlin being on track to be the second biggest district in the ACT in the very near future.

The AFPA believes that the Canberra Liberals have delivered for ACT Policing and the five AFPA election commitments.

Mr Caruana said that the Canberra Liberals' announcement of 130 new police officers, PACER funding, a new Molonglo Valley police station, a feasibility study for a new Traffic Operations Centre, and now an upgraded Gungahlin Police Station unquestionably demonstrated that the Canberra Liberals have committed to protecting the ACT community and providing ACT Policing with the resources to do that.

"The Gungahlin community and ACT Policing will finally get a police station that they can be proud of," Mr Caruana said.

END STATEMENT

For comments:

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