

12 July 2021



Australian Federal Police Association

MEDIA RELEASE

Man charged after mowing down three ACT Policing officers

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) welcomes the news that ACT Policing has charged a man who allegedly ran down three police officers yesterday afternoon (Sunday 11 July 2021) with three counts of attempted murder, three counts of driving a motor vehicle at police and one count of culpable driving causing grievous bodily harm.

AFPA President Alex Caruana said that incidents like this demonstrate how dangerous policing is.

"These three officers were doing their job, and the alleged offender has mowed them down with his car. These officers went to work and very nearly didn't return home to their families."

"Two of the officers involved are new to policing, and while we know the short term injury status of all three officers, we don't know what the long term prognoses for their injuries, both physically and psychologically could end up being."

"The priority for the AFPA is ensuring the welfare of our members involved in this incident and the members investigating it."

Mr Caruana said the alleged offender will face court this morning, where it's hoped bail will formally be refused.

"The only way to protect the community and other police officers from the alleged offender is to ensure that he is remanded until his day in court."

"There are no bail conditions that can be imposed on the alleged offender that would guarantee the safety of the community and police officers."

"It was only a few weeks ago where a Queensland police officer was fatally struck by a vehicle, and the Victorian incident is still very raw in the minds of police officers across the country." Mr Caruana said.

The maximum penalty for driving at police officers is imprisonment for 15 years under recent legislation introduced by the ACT Government, with the support of the Canberra Liberals, in 2020.

Mr Caruana said this incident would be a good test for the new legislation. "The penalties are rightly harsh, and if convicted, we would hope that a proper and suitable sentence is imposed."

"At the end of the day, the three officers are fortunate to still be with us. This could have very easily been a triple fatality."

"Police officers don't come to work to be driven at and nearly killed. In what world is it okay to drive, using a vehicle as a weapon, at someone doing their job?" Mr Caruana said.

END STATEMENT

For comments:

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