



Stuart Ayres MP

Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Minister Assisting the Premier on Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN TECHNOLOGY FOR FRONTLINE POLICE

Police and Emergency Services Minister Stuart Ayres has announced funds will be made available for body worn video (BWV) cameras for frontline police officers.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will also continue to fund the roll-out of mobile Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology.

“The NSW Police Force has been trialling the use of body worn video for frontline officers with very positive results,” Mr Ayres said.

“I am pleased to be able to confirm \$4 million over two years to roll-out body worn video.”

Trials across four commands – Public Order and Riot Squad, South West Metro Regional Enforcement Squad, Brisbane Water Local Area Command and the Northern Sector of the Police Transport Command – have proven to be a great success.

Following the success of the trials, funding will be made available to roll-out BWV devices to frontline police, with priority given to Public Order and Riot Squad, Police Transport Command and other highly mobile frontline officers.

Benefits include:

- Changes in behaviour of potential offenders by virtue of merely being recorded
- Providing police and members of the public with an independent and accurate recording of events
- Reduction in frivolous claims against police for misconduct whilst undertaking their duties

Meanwhile, an extra \$7 million will be allocated over the next two years for the continued rollout of mobile Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology.

“Those police officers who already use this technology know of its benefits,” Mr Ayres said.

Scanned number plates are automatically cross-referenced to the Police/Roads & Maritime Service databases to scan for unregistered or stolen vehicles at a rate of six licence plates per second.

“The advantage of this technology is that it allows police to undertake other duties while plates are scanned and details cross-checked on the database.”

ANPR can also alert police to any warnings about a vehicle that may be recorded on the Police database.

“This information also lets officers know if precautionary action is necessary before they approach a vehicle. For example, if the vehicle may have been used in connection with a drive-by shooting, then there may be firearms on board and police need to take extra safety measures before approaching it.

“With the abolition of registration labels for light vehicles, police can use ANPR to detect unregistered vehicles.”

The use of ANPR to detect unregistered vehicles has some other community benefits. Unregistered vehicles:

- Are over-represented in car accidents;
- The driver can be uninsured if they have an accident; and
- The vehicle will not have undergone safety and road-worthiness inspections.

“Most importantly, safety for police officers is improved, as officers would otherwise be operating equipment on the side of busy roads,” Mr Ayres concluded.

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