



Hon Michael Gallacher MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for the Hunter

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER LAUNCHES NEW POLICE HELICOPTER

Minister for Police and Emergency Services Michael Gallacher has today welcomed the addition of the new PolAir 4 helicopter for the NSW Police Force.

Joining the Minister at the launch was Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of New South Wales and NSW Police Commissioner, Andrew Scipione.

Mr Gallacher said he was delighted to be here to launch a police resource that will greatly assist day-to-day policing operations.

“The new PolAir 4 helicopter replaces the current single-engine model and has new design and technological capabilities that make it a far superior aircraft.

“This new Helicopter allows for increased cruise speed of around 220km/h, which will improve response times to Wollongong, the Central Coast and Newcastle which are now routinely patrolled by PolAir aircraft.

“The new cockpit configuration will also provide those on board with a greater field of vision during search and rescue operations, both day and night using night vision goggles.

“It will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology mainly to improve safety for low-level operations and rugged terrain, with engines so powerful the helicopter can fly on just one.

“An auto pilot allows for accurate navigation to regional and remote locations to assist with offender and missing person searches.

“Access to technological advancements, such as PolAir 4 and its equipment, ensures we are able to meet the policing needs of the Force and the community.

“The model of PolAir 4 is relatively new to Australia, with only a handful in use across the country. We expect to have the helicopter fully operational in coming months.

“The NSW Government is committed to ensuring Police have the resources they need including the commitment to purchase a new \$16 million Counter Terrorism helicopter to enable police to respond immediately to threats across NSW.

“I have been working closely with the Commissioner and Senior Police to ensure we can provide the resources for the Force now and properly plan for the future,” Mr Gallacher concluded.

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