



Body Worn Video



Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras are now being used by the NSW Police Force as part of operational equipment. Police officers are legally allowed to use BWV to record in public and private places.

What is BWV?

BWV is an operational tool used to gather potential evidence. Police officers may use BWV to record events and conversations with members of the community in operational situations. The BWV camera records high definition wide angle vision and high-quality audio. All recordings are stored on a secure video management system with restricted access.

Why are police using BWV?

Police agencies worldwide using this technology have reported a range of benefits related to:

- Improving community and officer safety
- Gathering and presenting objective evidence
- Lowering the incidence and escalation of violence
- Increasing police visibility in the community
- Encouraging cooperative interactions between police and community members
- Police professionalisation

How do police use BWV?

Police officers will wear BWV cameras on their body so they are clearly visible.

Officers will activate the record function of the camera at their discretion. Generally, this will be incident specific or to capture something of relevance. Whenever practical, police officers will advise people they are speaking with that they are being recorded. Examples of when police officers may use the BWV camera include:

- When they would normally use their official notebook to record information
- To capture evidence or record something of relevance
- When exercising a police power

What are the recordings used for?

Police can only use BWV recordings for law enforcement purposes defined in *the Surveillance Devices Act 2007* or as prescribed by regulation. BWV recordings may be used:

- in court as evidence
- for investigative purposes including complaints against police
- as training material for police, and
- where allowed by regulation

It is an offence for BWV recordings to be unlawfully used, communicated or publicised.

BWV and your privacy

Some people may be concerned about police recording incidents using BWV. The NSW Police Force takes very seriously its obligation to securely store and manage information it obtains from lawful policing activities and evidence gathering.

All BWV recordings will be processed and managed in line with relevant legislation, policy and procedures.

For more information, visit
www.police.nsw.gov.au

