



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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140 NEW 'FIRE TRAIL' BIKES FOR NSW POLICE FORCE

Bicycle policing in NSW has been boosted today with 140 new custom-designed mountain bikes.

The bikes, received by the NSW Police Force this week, were unpacked at the Bicycle Training and Co-ordination Unit's south-western Sydney headquarters.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Michael Gallacher, said the bikes were designed by police for police to withstand the demands of operational life.

"These bikes are to replace the older fleet which will be decommissioned over the coming weeks and will also complement last year's purchase," Minister Gallacher said.

"This is our third intake of custom-designed bicycles that rank among the best in the world in terms of design and construction for law enforcement.

"With stronger frames, wheel-sets, specific components and accessories, these bikes are designed to negotiate almost any terrain, making it a cost effective, crime fighting tool.

"Their benefits in terms of high visibility policing are invaluable," Minister Gallacher said.

Deputy Commissioner Dave Owens said bicycles often went where other police vehicles couldn't.

"Their greatest strength is their versatility in terms of tackling everything from parklands to alleys and multi-level car parks.

"Bike Units across the State often build an excellent rapport with local shopkeepers, providing their command with valuable intelligence on street level crime," Deputy Commissioner Owens said.

"People often find approaching an officer on a bicycle less intimidating than going into a police station or flagging down a patrol car.

"Bicycle policing has been a part of the law enforcement landscape in NSW since 1995.

“Our Bicycle Policing Program has the only nationally accredited courses for bicycle policing in Australia and as a result has trained bicycle policing instructors from the Australian Federal Police, Northern Territory Police and Western Australia Police,” Deputy Commissioner Owens said.

The New South Wales Police Force Bicycle Patrol unit is an important part in the strategy to reduce crime through pro activity patrols and high visibility policing. The training provided has become nationally and internationally recognised as “World Best Practice.

The NSW Bicycle Policing Program has worked closely with police departments overseas with aspects of the NSW program being adopted by numerous police departments in the United States, United Kingdom, and now Samoa.

ENDS

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