



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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NEW FRAUD AND CYBERCRIME SQUAD LAUNCHED

The NSW Police Force has bolstered its war against online fraud with a new squad of specialist detectives to take on cybercrime.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Michael Gallacher today launched the newest investigative arm of State Crime Command with Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione and the Commander of the new Fraud and Cybercrime Squad, Detective Superintendent Col Dyson.

Formed from the previous Fraud Squad, it reflects the dramatic shift in the way its highly-skilled detectives are investigating crime in cyberspace.

Minister Gallacher said the rapid growth and affordability of technology had led to a rise in cybercrime, which is increasingly being linked to organised criminal syndicates.

"Fraud is the crime of choice in the 21st Century and has emerged as one of the biggest challenges Police face now and certainly into the future," Minister Gallacher said.

"While we continue to see cases of traditional 'white collar' crime, the incidences of identity theft, technologically-advanced credit card fraud, internet and electronic fraud are clearly on the rise and we predict this will continue into the future," Det Supt Dyson said.

"Technology is moving in leaps and bounds, while at the same time becoming much cheaper. Organised criminal groups are capitalising on those factors to commit online fraud offences – the majority of which are not confined to any borders.

"Our newly-named Fraud and Cybercrime Squad will place a greater emphasis on organised crime, cybercrime and technology-enabled crime.

"The squad is constantly developing new strategies to meet the challenges set by organised cyber criminals and works closely with other law enforcement agencies and specialist organisations across the globe.

"While technology creates opportunities for criminals, it also creates opportunities for law enforcement agencies," Det Supt Dyson said.

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