



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 AND COMMISSIONER LAUNCH NEW FLOOD-RESCUE BOATS

The NSW Police Force's Marine Area Command will launch a new fleet of flood-rescue boats as the state prepares for weather emergencies throughout the summer season.

In accordance with the NSW State Flood Plan, the NSW Police Force is tasked with securing supply lines and assisting the State Emergency Service with evacuation, flood rescue and protecting property.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Michael Gallacher, joined NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione at Marine Area Command today, to hand over the new fleet.

The six new vessels, worth a total of \$200,000, will be based at Marine Area Command and can be deployed to any flood-affected area in NSW to directly support local police in maintaining policing functions.

In addition, the vessels assist with access to outlying communities and coordination of searches for missing people in flood-affected areas.

Police and Emergency Services Minister, Michael Gallacher, said the addition of the new flood-boat fleet strengthens the state's ability to respond in a flood emergency.

"The NSW Government is serious about emergency preparedness, particularly ensuring we are well-equipped for response and recovery operations," Minister Gallacher said.

"Under the State Disaster Plan (Displan), it is my responsibility to ensure adequate measures are taken by government agencies to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and assist recovery in emergencies.

"While we hope we don't have a flood emergency this year and a need to deploy these new vessels, I can be confident that the NSW Police Force has what it needs to assist the people of NSW," the Minister said.

The new vessels will replace the current fleet and be deployed to rural and urban areas in the event of flooding. This will ensure local police can continue general policing functions and maintain law and order.

NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione said the new fleet is part of a proactive police approach to weather emergencies.

“The weather in this state can be unpredictable and it is important for the NSW Police Force to be prepared for any situation, whether it is wild storms and flooding or extreme heat and bushfires,” Commissioner Scipione said.

“Over the past two years, a number of areas across NSW have been affected by floods and the Marine Area Command played a significant role in supporting the State Emergency Service during search-and-rescue missions and flood protection.

“By replacing the previous fleet with custom-designed and built vessels, we will have the capacity to provide more effective and efficient assistance during these times,” Mr Scipione said.

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