



### **New Mobile Technology to Help Catch Unregistered and Stolen Vehicles**

Thursday 17 September 2009

Minister for Police Michael Daley today announced the NSW Government would be trialling mobile automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) units in seven police cars across the state to catch drivers of unregistered and stolen vehicles.

Mr Daley said the introduction of the new in-car technology was a smarter way to use police resources and catch those drivers flagrantly breaking the law.

"NSW Police will be putting out a tender for the mobile ANPR devices this month, with all seven systems expected to be up and running in highway patrol cars in the new year," he said.

"These seven police cars will then take part in a three-month field trial to comprehensively assess the capabilities, benefits and costs of the technology.

"A mobile automatic number plate recognition or "ANPR" system is an in-car device that "reads" number plates and automatically compares them with Police and RTA databases.

"When the system flags a number plate as being unregistered, stolen or of interest, it warns the police driver who can then intercept the vehicle straight away.

"The capabilities of this cutting-edge technology could even be extended to catch unlicensed drivers – and possibly even more serious criminals.

"The potential for these ingenious new devices really is amazing and we certainly intend to explore this during the trial," Mr Daley said.

Mr Daley said the exploration of the technology was part of the Rees Labor Government's 30-point action plan to improve road safety for NSW motorists.

"In our response to the Road Safety Roundtable, we undertook to explore a trial of mobile ANPR; so I am pleased to be able to stand here today and announce that the tender process will be happening straight away," he said.

"Unregistered vehicles are over-represented in crashes, so they pose a real and significant safety risk to the community and cost burden to the health system.

"They are also uninsured, which increases the cost of CTP insurance premiums for everyone else," Mr Daley said.

NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione said a previous trial of one mobile ANPR system had already proven to be hugely successful out on the streets.

"The police who have been part of this trial have said it's excellent technology which assists them greatly in ensuring road safety and helping with law enforcement," Mr Scipione said.

"Mobile ANPR devices will also free up the police to carry out other important duties because all scanning and cross-checking is done in the background.

"As well, the mobile units are a much safer alternative to the fixed devices which have to be operated by officers on the side of busy roads.

"Hopefully the end result will be an improvement in the compliance of vehicle registration in NSW," Mr Scipione said.

### **What is ANPR?**

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) uses a camera and optical character recognition software to capture an image of a vehicle, locate the number plate within the image and then "read" the text.

The identified number plate is then cross-checked against law enforcement agencies databases to generate alerts in relation to unregistered or stolen vehicles – or other potential red flags stored in these databases.

### **What is Mobile ANPR?**

Mobile ANPR units can be integrated with other equipment in highway patrol vehicles such as New Generation Mobile Data Terminals and in-car video devices.

Three infrared cameras are fitted to the vehicle allowing the mobile unit to screen all vehicle number plates within the detection zone.

When a number plate is recognised as being of interest, the mobile ANPR system warns the police driver via an audible alarm and displays the relevant data on the in-car screen. This data includes a picture of the target vehicle, a close-up of the number plate, time, date, GPS location and relevant RTA or stolen vehicle data. Police can then immediately initiate such action as may be required.