



The Hon. Paul Toole MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Police

F/2022/29609

Ms Helen Minnican
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
NSW Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

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Dear Ms Minnican,

Please find attached the NSW Government response to Recommendation 1 from the Public Accounts Committee – Examination of selected Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports – August 2019 – June 2020.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul Toole'.

The Hon. Paul Toole MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Police

NSW Government response to Recommendation 1 of the Public Accounts Committee on *Examination of selected Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports August 2019 to June 2020*

Recommendation 1:

The Public Accounts Committee recommends that the NSW Police Force (NSWPF) provides a further update concerning the status and expected benefits of the Body-Worn Video camera (BWVCs) project.

Key Status and Benefits Confirmation

Current fleet M-view MK2 deployed in 2019:

The current fleet of 5300 BWVCs deployed in 2019 is at end of life.

Refresh of BWVC fleet of 6,227 cameras project is currently underway and funded as part of the Integrated Connected Officer Program (ICO) approved by Treasury for \$12.39M. The refreshed BWVCs are planned to be operational by Jul-2023.

Officers use BWVC in the field extensively to capture footage of incidents / events, of which of 46% is tagged for evidentiary purposes e.g. early guilty pleas, briefs of evidence preparation, prosecutions, and deflecting claims against police. The number of tagged video has steadily increased from approximately 900/day in 2019 to 2400/day in 2022 across NSWPF.

Officers have worn BWVCs in the field over the past year (10/10/2021 to 10/10/2022) for a total of 12.6M hours.

Beneficial Outcomes resulting from BWVC implementation

An evaluation of the NSWPF Phase 2 BWVC deployment was conducted in 2019 to develop an understanding of this initiative on key areas of impact for the NSW Community, NSW Legal Profession and Judiciary, NSW Multicultural Community Groups, NSW Victims of Crime and NSWPF Officers and NSWPF Commanders. A commanders Survey was undertaken in Aug/Sep 2022 to correlate with the 2019 survey and confirm the sustainability of the expected benefits.

The surveys, underpinned by quantitative assessments, provide insight into the reality of the operational experience of the impact from the deployment of BWVCs for NSWPF.

The findings in this report, when combined with the NSWPF Financial metrics data for the BWVC project, contribute to a comprehensive evaluation of this important organisation wide program.

The research indicates positive trends across all categories examined.

Indicative trends summary of 2019 are confirmed by the Commander's survey 2022

1. **Positive endorsement** for NSWPF BWVCs by NSW Community members, NSW Legal, Judiciary, Multicultural, Victims of Crime representatives for the emerging benefits afforded for policing and associated areas of influence as a contributor to **increasing community / police relations, accountability and safety;**

2. NSWPF BWVCs are contributing to a **28% reduction in sustained complaints against NSWPF officers**;
3. NSWPF BWVCs are contributing to **an increase in successful NSWPF prosecutions where BWVC evidence is present**;
4. NSWPF BWVCs are contributing to **increased efficiency in the NSWPF prosecution process due to increase in early guilty pleas**;
5. **NSWPF Officers** are reporting the presence of BWVCs is contributing to **improved behaviour by the general public, including de-escalating levels of aggression and assault** (note point 12 below);
6. NSWPF Officers are reporting the presence of BWVCs is contributing to **an increase in confidence and security in attending incidents with violent behaviour**;
7. Positive endorsement for the BWVCs in **supporting Victims of Crime in the judicial process**;
8. Positive endorsement for the BWVCs **contribution to NSWPF prosecution cases of a Domestic Violence nature**;
9. Positive impact on **Commander's work (94% positive)** and **Officer's duties (82% positive)**;
10. **Commanders report** BWVCs impact on the **professionalism of officers (91% positive)**;
11. **Commanders report** impact of BWVCs on **police interactions with the community (85% positive)**;
12. **Counterbalanced** finding that assault police incidents **increases when BWVCs are present as compared to no BWVC present**, however **better evidence capture contributes to increased conviction rates** (NSWPF Commanders 2022 and UK Police Constabularies);

Overall Findings:

- The current status of BWVC capability has been sustained from 2019 to 2022, and strategies and actions are in place to further maintain the current operational capability until the Refresh of BWVC is completed.
- Considering the overwhelmingly positive endorsement for the benefits above, together with a sound economic Benefits Cost Ratio (BCR = 1.25), we conclude that Value for Money has been delivered by the BWVC Program, and that the benefits and costs have been sustained.

The Benefits of the BWVC Refresh will have the same capabilities as the current fleet with additional benefits of increased number of BWVCs, extended back capture capability, improved video and audio capability, stealth mode camera capability.

The replaced BWV cameras will have a further added capability to automatically switch on when an officer draws their Glock firearm or Taser from their holsters.

BWVC technology is now part of police uniform when officers are deployed for operational response as part of NSWPF's SOPs. Such is the critical importance of this capability which must be maintained, upgraded and improved on an ongoing basis.