



Safer communities: Better equipment for our police

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The men and women of the NSW Police Force remain at the heart of protecting our community.

They have the great responsibility of keeping our community safe by preventing crime and quickly solving those crimes after they have occurred.

Our Police put their lives on the line to protect the community every day they report for duty.

That is why the Keneally Labor Government is determined to keep our Police as safe as possible.

That is why it is important that the Police on the streets have the best personal protection available. The safety of our officers has always been a top priority for my Government.

I am proud to say we will continue that record of providing our Police with the best equipment to ensure they remain safe.

A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will fully replace the current bullet proof vests available to officers with stronger and lighter vests. They are easier to wear and provide officers with greater protection.

We will also continue the roll-out of load bearing vests to all frontline Police and provide thigh holsters for Police who want them.

My Government will ensure Police are provided with the equipment they need to help solve crimes and catch criminals.

That is why if re-elected we will purchase additional portable radios, domestic violence evidence kits, Tasers, covert electronic surveillance equipment, new vehicles and forensic equipment.

This package includes \$96.2 million in new funding.

This complements our record \$2.8 billion budget for Police in 2010-11 and reaffirms our commitment to protecting officers and giving them the equipment they need to fight crime.



Kristina Keneally

What this policy means for the Police and our community

This new equipment ensures that our Police on the front line serving our community are fully protected when they put their lives on the line for us.

Our Police will continue to be equipped to face the challenges and dangers that face them on our streets.

The personal safety of our Police is at the forefront of this commitment. So too is the welfare of our officers to ensure that we minimise the injuries that our Police may suffer.

Modern policing is a tough and dangerous profession – and we need to ensure that the equipment we give our Police provides them with the best support.

The new equipment we are providing will also allow Police to solve more crimes, more efficiently.

As criminals become more sophisticated in their techniques and the technology they use to commit crimes, our Police need to keep pace.

Our commitment to new electronic evidence collection equipment and technology as well as improving forensic technology will ensure more crimes can be prevented as well as catching more criminals.

ACTION:

Replace police bullet proof vests

- Spend \$3.8 million to replace 2,500 bullet proof vests with more advanced, stronger and lighter vests to keep our Police safe

Provide thigh holsters for Police

- Provide \$2.7 million to provide thigh holsters for every Police officer who finds them more comfortable than belt holsters

Continued roll-out of load bearing vests

- Spend a further \$1.3 million to roll-out load bearing vests to all officers by the end of 2015

Provide more electronic evidence collection equipment

- Provide a \$5 million package for electronic evidence collection equipment and technology so Police can build the strongest case possible when they take criminals to court

Replace and update Tasers

- Provide \$3.9 million over four years to replace Tasers already in service as technology improves

Provide more Police radios

- Over four years, provide \$28 million to replace existing radios and increase the number of portable radios available for officers

Upgrade forensic technology

- Spend \$10 million upgrading Police specialist forensic technology – this includes up-to date optical scanning and other technology as well as replacing the vacuum metal deposition chamber which is used to extract fingerprints and footwear markings from objects such as firearms, clothing and plastic

Build new police stations

- Invest \$217 million to build new Police Stations - including \$210 million to complete construction of 13 Police stations and \$7 million in new funding to begin another 10 new Police stations - these 10 new stations are located at Ballina, Blacktown, Cessnock, Cobar, Hurstville, Leppington, Mount Druitt, Port Macquarie, Singleton and Wetherill Park

Provide quality police housing

- \$25 million to upgrade and refurbish police housing – particularly in rural and regional areas

Expand the successful WellCheck program

- We will expand the successful WellCheck program to provide support and assistance to our Police officers - this will cost \$9.5 million over four years

Labor and Police

The NSW Police Force now has a record 15,806 sworn officers which represents an increase of 22.5 per cent since Labor was elected.

One third of these officers are based in rural and regional areas, demonstrating our commitment to providing safer communities right across our state.

This massive investment in our police combined with investments in equipment and technology has led to significant falls in crime rates over the past two years - some of the biggest falls in crime rates in the country:

- During the 24 months to September 2010, all 17 out of 17 major crime categories are either stable or falling
- The rate of property crime has also halved since 2000.

Less crime means less victims of crime in our community.

The NSW Government is also on track to meet our commitments for new police stations, ensuring that our Police are working out of the best facilities.

Since June 2008 nine new police stations have been opened in Lismore, Fairfield, Dubbo, Orange, Wagga Wagga, Windsor, Kempsey, Lake Illawarra and Granville.

Construction has already begun on new stations in Camden, Burwood, Raymond Terrace and Wyong.

We need to ensure that this record investment in infrastructure for our police continues – and our commitment will ensure that our police continue to work out of state-of-the-art facilities.

Our Challenges

Modern day policing can be a tough, physical job and it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that our officers have the equipment they need to protect themselves as well as to solve crime.

Policing can take a toll on all officers – both physically and mentally. We need to ensure we are preventing officers from being injured in the first instance, but we also need to ensure that we are supporting those officers who do suffer injuries by helping them return to work.

Criminals are also becoming more sophisticated as they carry out their crimes. They are accessing more advanced technology and our police need to have the equipment to keep pace.

Increased forensic technology will greatly assist Police in solving all levels of crime – from the most serious crimes to smaller personal crimes committed against individuals.

It is often these smaller personal crimes like theft and breaking and entering that have the most impact on members of our community, so giving Police the equipment to solve these crimes quickly is vital in providing closure to victims of crimes.

There is also a greater focus on preventing crimes before they happen.

Our package of improved electronic evidence collection equipment will not only help us catch criminals and bring them to justice, it will allow Police to step in and stop crime before there is a victim.

Our Record

LABOR

- Delivered record numbers of Police over the last 4 years, with almost 1,500 additional officers to bring the NSW Police Force to nearly 16,000
- All 17 major crime categories either stable or falling according to BOCSAR
- Halved property crime in the last 10 years
- Increased Police numbers by more than 22% since the Coalition were last in power
- Allocated a record \$2.8 billion budget in 2010/11 to the NSW Police Force
- Delivered 2,000 Tasers to all first response police
- Provided 8,000 state-of-the-art load bearing vests
- Provided 25 mobile command vehicles across the state in the 2010/11 budget
- Invested \$6 million to deliver mobile Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology to almost 100 police vehicles
- Successfully trialled thigh holsters for officers.

OPPOSITION

- No commitment to a single new Police officer, but have said that they will conduct an audit and look at a new allocation model – this has left communities in doubt about whether they will have Police officers taken from their areas
- When the Coalition were last in government they didn't fill their quota of officers – the NSW Police Force were 229 officers below the then authorised strength of 12,907

Replace police bullet proof vests

Firearms technology has changed since the current vests were first used. Bullets can now pierce materials they did not before. And bullet-resistant clothing technology continues to improve. Stronger fabrics and materials which can resist higher-calibre projectiles are now available. Many of these are not as heavy as older bullet-resistant technologies.

A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will spend \$3.78 million replacing 2,500 bullet proof vests currently used by our first response Police.

ACTION:

- Spend \$3.8 million to replace 2,500 bullet proof vests with more advanced, stronger and lighter vests to keep our Police safe

Provide thigh holsters for Police

Some Police find belt-mounted holsters for their firearms uncomfortable. Police appointment belts are heavy and uncomfortable for some officers. In addition to load bearing vests, a re-elected Keneally Labor Government will provide \$2.7 million so that every Police officer who wants one can have a thigh holster.

ACTION:

- Provide \$2.7 million to provide thigh holsters for every Police officer who finds them more comfortable than belt holsters

Continued roll-out of load bearing vests

By mid 2011, 8000 load bearing vests will have been rolled out to NSW Police at a cost of \$1.3 million.

A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will spend a further \$1.3 million to roll out load bearing vests to all of the more than 16,000 officers we will have by the end of 2015.

Load bearing vests are specially designed to carry capsicum spray, an expandable baton, handcuffs, portable radios and a Taser gun and cartridge.

The provision of load bearing vests is about ensuring Police have the latest crime-fighting equipment while meeting their occupational health and safety needs.

ACTION:

- Spend a further \$1.3 million to roll-out of load bearing vests to all officers by the end of 2015

Provide more electronic evidence equipment

The courts are increasingly expecting electronic evidence to be submitted by Police during prosecutions.

A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will provide \$5 million for a package of equipment and technology to improve Police collection of electronic evidence.

This package will include the construction of two special-purpose vehicles for use in siege/hostage and potentially terrorist incidents where electronic surveillance is required, covert video surveillance kits, listening devices, new digital cameras and video recorders and GPS devices for use by the State Crime Command.

ACTION:

- Provide a \$5 million package for electronic evidence collection equipment and technology so Police can build the strongest case possible when they take criminals to court

Replace and update Tasers

Taser technology is relatively new to the NSW Police Force and is currently being rolled out to all front-line Police.

A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will provide \$3.9 million over four years to replace Tasers already in service as technology improves.

The NSW Police Commissioner recommended the roll-out of Tasers largely because they provide an alternative to firing a gun in many dangerous situations faced by Police.

When Police have made every effort possible to de-escalate a situation, a Taser is a much safer option than a handgun for police officers, offenders, victims and bystanders. The stringent training Police undergo before using the device has resulted in an excellent Taser use record within the NSW Police Force.

Only trained Police officers are authorised to use them, and only within defined situations.

ACTION:

- Provide \$3.9 million over four years to replace Tasers already in service as technology improves

Provide more Police radios

Portable radios are an essential tool for Police. They assist in coordinating responses to emergency situations, and they help to keep officers safe while they are on the street.

A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will invest \$28 million over four years to replace existing radios and provide more portable radios for Police officers.

ACTION:

- Over four years, provide \$28 million to replace existing radios and double the number of portable radios available, so every officer has their own portable radio

Upgrade forensic technology

A re-elected Keneally Labor Government will upgrade the NSW Police Force's electronic, inkless fingerprint system with up-to date optical scanning and other technology at a cost of \$10 million.

In addition, \$250,000 will be allocated to replace the vacuum metal deposition chamber which is used to extract fingerprints and footwear markings from substances such as firearms, clothing and plastic.

ACTION:

- Spend \$10 million upgrading Police specialist forensic technology – this includes up-to-date optical scanning and other technology, as well as replacing the vacuum metal deposition chamber, which is used to extract fingerprints and footwear markings from objects such as firearms, clothing and plastic

Build new Police stations

Policing isn't just about bricks and mortar, but providing our Police with the best facilities, technology and accommodation allows them to do their job. That's why we will continue to construct and plan new police stations for our Police right across NSW.

The Government has already committed to and allocated funding for planning, land acquisition and/or construction work for 13 Police stations. These are located at Bowral, Glendale, Leichhardt, Parramatta, Riverstone, Coffs Harbour, Tweed, Liverpool, Moree, Manly (Local Area Command), Parkes, Deniliquin and Walgett.

In addition to the above, a re-elected Keneally Labor Government will allocate \$7 million to begin planning and/or construction of 10 additional Police stations in 2014/15.

These 10 stations are located at Ballina, Blacktown, Cessnock, Cobar, Hurstville, Leppington, Mount Druitt, Port Macquarie, Singleton and Wetherill Park.

ACTION:

- Invest \$217 million to build new Police Stations - including \$210 million to complete construction of 13 Police stations and \$7 million in new funding to begin another 10 new Police stations - these 10 new stations are located at Ballina, Blacktown, Cessnock, Cobar, Hurstville, Leppington, Mount Druitt, Port Macquarie, Singleton and Wetherill Park

Provide quality Police housing

It is important for NSW Police officers based in rural and regional areas to have appropriate accommodation. This investment in Police housing will see a substantial improvement and upgrade in all housing for NSW Police officers and their families.

ACTION:

- \$25 million to upgrade and refurbish Police housing – particularly in rural and regional areas

Expand the successful WellCheck program

The successful WellCheck program already provides support and assistance to 1200 police officers working in specialist units.

This program will be expanded to address the needs of all Police, including commanders and general duties officers.

We will provide \$9.5 million over four years to create and maintain an online early intervention tool to assess which officers require face to face counselling to help them manage the stresses associated with policing work. Such a system is already benefiting Police in other jurisdictions.

ACTION:

- We will expand the successful WellCheck program to provide support and assistance to our Police officers – this will cost \$9.5 million over four years



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