



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

MEDIA RELEASE

**Registered Office: 107 New Town Road, New Town. Phone: 03 62781900 Fax: 03 62781315,
Email: pat@pat.asn.au Website: <http://www.pat.asn.au>**

December 7, 2009

Premier admits to under-resourcing frontline police: PAT

The Police Association of Tasmania has called on the State Government to restore essential frontline police resources that were cut or put on hold due to the spending freezes in the wake of the GFC.

The Bartlett Government has admitted the public service cuts on frontline police were impacting upon police's ability to do their job (*Mercury 7/12*).

Police Association of Tasmania President Sergeant Randolph Wierenga said while recognition of police's inadequate resourcing is welcome the delay in addressing falling frontline officers and their diminishing resources – was unacceptable.

Sergeant Wierenga said that besides numbers, the biggest priorities were the impact the cuts had on Tasmanian Police Service's fleet and its officer's computers.

"Not only is there not enough Frontline Police, but those who are on the frontline have restricted or inadequate access to police cars and computers.

"This year 20 cars and 50 computers were cut from frontline police. That's completely unacceptable for a role in the community that other people rely on.

"Added to this, there is simply not enough police on the frontline, as they keep being shifted to cover other deficiencies in public service.

"These not only make it harder for police to continue upholding the frontline against crime, but it discourages officers who do not feel they're being properly equipped.

"I don't know of many Departments who are able to complete their essential work without appropriate cars or computers.

"We call on the State Government to rectify the forward estimates to ensure that they reflect the new attitude toward spending for the delivery of public services and that they include the essential equipment required for policing.

"These essential resources are required by Police every day. We're not after special conditions or treatment – just the proper tools to do our job.

For more information please call Adrian Dodd on 0401726476