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COOL COPS: Sgt Robert Blackwood and Acting Sgt Anna Hunter step out in new uniforms. Picture: RAOUL KOCHANOWSKI

Front-line fashion becomes practical . . . and arresting

DANIELLE MCKAY

FASHION and working on Tasmania Police's front-line doesn't tend to go hand in hand, but the force's new uniforms are unquestionably savvy.

After years of campaigning for better uniforms, officers have received a \$450,000 investment in their wardrobe.

The new, improved uniforms were unveiled at the Police Association of Tasmania conference yesterday.

Common complaints about the old uniforms included being too cold in winter, too hot in summer, and impractical for the often physically demanding job.

But now, following an extensive internal review, the new uniforms are ready to hit the streets.

Premier David Bartlett said the review had resolved concerns about the former impractical uniforms, which had posed a safety risk in some situations.

The latest uniforms come in three designs including an

operational uniform, special incidents uniform and ceremonial uniform.

"The operational uniform will look much the same, but minor changes in design and the use of other materials mean it will be much more comfortable and safer," Mr Bartlett said.

"A secondary uniform will be issued for special incidents such as bushfires, protests and searches.

"This uniform will provide increased protection and consistency of appearance across specialist groups, making police more visible and easily identifiable.

"The ceremonial uniform is well recognised and respected and as such will remain unchanged."

Among the notable changes is the inclusion of a baseball style cap for operational situations, 100 per cent wool knit jumper with an embroidered badge which replaces the breast badge, and an all-purpose jacket and trouser of Gore-Tex material, which is waterproof and breathable.