



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

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Police are not just resources: Association

The Police Association of Tasmania has today rejected Acting Police Commissioner Darren Hines claims that two-person patrols are a 'waste of resources'.

Assuming police are just a 'resource' fundamentally misstates the active role they play in the community and the views of the police service in Tasmania.

Sergeant Randolph Wierenga, Police Association President said that police are professional people whose occupation is to serve and protect the community – not simply resources to be deployed by office-based bureaucrats.

70 per cent of officers want to see an end to single officer patrols, a recent survey of Police Association members found.

"The overwhelming majority of officers on the ground, the officers who see their mates attend dangerous situations alone – they don't think that two man patrols are a waste.

"Quite simply, officers are concerned that their safety is compromised when they work alone.

"And further, officers would also like to see the end of single officer patrols because they make the process of giving evidence in courts more credible.

"The practice of single officer patrols has been limited in most states in Australia and has been eliminated in Western Australia.

"It's time for the Minister to listen to the concerns of frontline police," Sergeant Wierenga said.

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