



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Police Association of Tasmania has called on the State Government to increase the safety of police engaged in pursuits through increased penalties for those who attempt to flee police and introducing technology including in car video and the US device called 'StarChase'.

Sergeant Randolph Wierenga said that police pursuits were a complex operational decision for police and one that potentially placed police and the community at risk, and that everything that could be done to make them safer should be government policy.

"Firstly, a \$250 fine for failing to stop for police is an inadequate deterrent. We must increase this punishment, otherwise how do we send a message to the community that this sort of dangerous behaviour is unacceptable?

"Secondly, we could have at our disposal technology which would make the process of police pursuits safer.

"In car video is one option which would allow police to capture images of the vehicle being tracked, and allow police to have confidence that they could catch the offender while minimising risk to themselves or the community.

"Video evidence is also compelling in future court proceedings.

"We also call on the State Government to seriously examine the Star Chase technology, which allows a dart to be fired from police cars that affixes to the offenders car, and allows police to monitor the vehicle.

"The Dart then sends signals to the police's computer which allows them to track the offender's passage safely.

"New technology and proper punishments is the key to making police pursuits safer, not simply giving up on peoples attempt to escape the law at the risk of the community.

For more information about Star Chase please see: <http://starchase.org/howitworks.html>

And for footage see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRP31Jx2rjo>

For more information please call Adrian Dodd on 0401726476

Randolph Wierenga will be available at 1PM at Newtown Rd, Newtown for a press conference