

4.3.16 MINISTER FOR POLICE

OVERVIEW

Agency	Forecast 1995-96	Estimate 1996-97	Variation
	\$m	\$m	%
Ministry for Police			
Current Payments	3.6	3.3	(-) 8.3
Capital Payments
New South Wales Police Service			
Current Payments	902.7	933.1	3.4
Capital Payments	40.7	45.8	12.5
New South Wales Crime Commission			
Current Payments	5.1	6.9	35.3
Capital Payments	0.4	0.4	...
Total, Minister for Police	952.5	989.5	3.9

MINISTRY FOR POLICE

The Ministry provides the Minister for Police with independent advice on policy and resource allocation across the Police portfolio and supports the Minister in the performance of ministerial functions including the Government's legislative programs for the portfolio.

The Ministry also provides administrative support, policy advice and research services to the Police Board in its role of advising on senior appointments, career development, training and the integrity of the Police Service.

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The Ministry was created early in the 1992-93 financial year. It expanded late in 1992-93 to support the Emergency Services portfolio, and in 1994-95 became host agency to the Minister's Office. In 1995-96, following the change of Government, the Police and Emergency Services portfolio was split.

Apart from these changes, actual allocations and expenditures on the Ministry's activities and programs have remained relatively constant.

Strategic Directions

The Government's policies on the criminal justice system and associated legislative changes require the Ministry to liaise extensively with the Police Service and the NSW Crime Commission as well as the Attorney-General's Department, the Cabinet Office, Premier's Department and Treasury.

The Ministry will be expected to play a key role in driving change and achieving lasting reform in the Police Service. The Ministry provides an important source of policy ideas for the Police Service and the Government, and contributes policy papers to the Royal Commission.

Issues of resource allocation will continue to be a focus of attention across the portfolio. These include capital works, industrial issues, continuing increases in police strength and the cost of corporate services.

1996-97 Budget

The Ministry was created in unique circumstances in 1992. Since then both the pace and expectations of change have continued to grow. During 1996-97, the Minister, Police Board and Ministry (as well as the Police Service) will need to respond to and anticipate the need for much greater change, driven by the findings of the Royal Commission into the Police Service.

NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE SERVICE

The Police Service is responsible for working with the community to establish a safer environment by reducing violence, crime and fear.

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

Increases in expenditure levels in recent years are mainly due to increases in police numbers and the cost of enterprise agreements for police officers. The enterprise agreements provided a salary increase of 9 per cent from 1 July 1994 and 6 per cent from 1 July 1995 for non-commissioned officers and, for commissioned officers, 9 per cent from 1 July 1994 and 4 per cent from 1 July 1995. The authorised strength of the Service is a record 13,107 and this will be progressively increased to 13,407 during the Government's current term.

Capital expenditure is being and will be directed to locations where there is the greatest need for new or improved facilities, and to equipment and systems which will enhance the effectiveness of the Service. A major concern of the Government has been the upgrading of officer safety.

In 1995-96 all first-response vehicles were equipped with bullet-resistant vests. From 1996-97, modern self loading pistols will progressively replace the current Service revolver, and the radio systems will be upgraded to improve coverage and reliability and increase officer safety.

Strategic Directions

In the delivery of policing services, there will be increasing emphasis on fighting crime. In particular, local crime and social disorder issues are to be targeted and better feedback and support to victims of crimes will be provided.

The Child Protection Enforcement Agency will provide a concerted attack against all forms of serious and organised child abuse.

Proactive crime prevention will be complemented by improved responsiveness to crime as it occurs. This will be achieved not only through increased total police numbers, but through a shift in emphasis from administrative processes to operational policing.

These improvements in the delivery of policing services will be underpinned by changes to ensure the integrity and increase accountability to the Government and people of New South Wales, in response to the findings of the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service.

A vision of achieving the **Safest Streets in Australia** by the end of the decade continues to be appropriate to the needs and expectations of the community and Government.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

The 1996-97 current budget includes provision for -

- a 3 per cent increase in respect of salaries for both police and non-police personnel amounting to approximately \$27 million;
- an additional 100 officers as part of the Government's commitment to provide an extra 650 Police;
- savings of \$3.9 million to be achieved through more efficient corporate services; and
- full operation of the Child Protection Enforcement Agency at a cost of \$3.4 million including \$2.4 million for employee related costs for 53 staff.

Capital Payments

Capital funding is provided to refurbish and upgrade Police buildings, to provide improved plant and equipment and to maintain and operate the Police Service's mainframe computer and data network.

The Service's 1996-97 capital program of \$45.8 million provides for the following major projects and initiatives -

- progressive replacement of the obsolescent standard issue service revolver with modern self-loading pistols at an estimated total cost of \$11.2 million;
- construction of major Police Stations at Auburn, Raymond Terrace, Ashfield and Kogarah;
- implementation of a major Cell Improvement Program aimed at increased safety for persons in Police custody at a total cost of \$16.3 million and with \$4 million allocated for 1996-97;
- equipping and fitting out premises for the Child Protection Enforcement Agency at an estimated total cost of \$1.2 million;

- improvement in Police facilities at Wallsend, The Rocks, Maroubra, Waverley, Newtown, Blacktown, Liverpool, Penrith, Dubbo and Woy Woy;
- providing the Special Technical Investigation Branch with state-of-the-art surveillance, counter-terrorist and computer equipment at a cost of \$1 million;
- continuation of the substantial upgrade of Police facilities at Marrickville, Thornton, Narellan, Green Valley, Quakers Hill, Coffs Harbour, Eaglevale and Randwick Police Stations; and
- completion of the installation of remote terminals at Fingerprint Crime Scene Units around the State.

In addition, the Service's now obsolete statewide computer network will be modernised and upgraded. This in turn will facilitate -

- implementation of Stage 2 of an integrated system for policing (COPS); and
- further development of the records management system.

These initiatives will improve the operational effectiveness and efficiency of the Service, provide secure, accurate and comprehensive records, facilitate planning and control, and assist with the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

Minor works of \$17 million will include \$4 million for the purchase of critical radio and telephone equipment with particular attention paid to the improvement of officer safety and improvement of radio coverage -

- the purchase of operational plant and equipment;
- minor improvements to existing Police accommodation;
- site acquisitions; and
- the planning of future improvements in accommodation.

In view of difficulties in gaining development approval, the proposed new Police Station at Wagga Wagga has been removed from the capital program. The priority for this project will be re-assessed in the light of funds available in future Budget allocations to the Service.

NEW SOUTH WALES CRIME COMMISSION

The objective of the New South Wales Crime Commission is to combat illegal drug trafficking.

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

Through a program of measures, the Commission has been able to reduce its operating costs over the last five years whilst increasing the level of productivity. This enabled the Commission to purchase its premises in 1993-94.

Strategic Directions

The Commission is constantly reviewing its procedures and practices to ensure it is providing the most efficient and effective means to achieve its objectives. Specific attention is paid to changes in technology and the impact this has on the operations of the Commission.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

An amount of \$6.9 million is available to the Commission in 1996-97.

The ongoing activities of the Commission include -

- the targeting of high level drug traffickers and persons involved in organised crime;
- the obtaining of evidence for prosecution of those persons and/or the civil forfeiture of their assets;
- the furnishing of reports relating to illegal drug trafficking and organised crime; and
- the dissemination of investigatory, technological and analytical expertise.

Capital Payments

An amount of \$0.4 million provides for the purchase of minor plant and equipment items.