

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 7 July 2016

SA Police jobs to stay in SA

The State Government has made a commitment to back local jobs, with a \$16.1 million investment to deliver an extra 313 police officers.

Meeting the original commitment of employing the extra Police before 2018 would require active recruitment from overseas.

Following the Government's decision to back local jobs, the timeline for delivery has been revised to 2020.

The commitment to deliver these jobs to South Australians means we will only actively recruit police cadets from South Australia.

The \$16.1 million investment will see new, South Australian recruits, trained at our state-of-the-art police academy.

Recruiting within South Australia rather than targeting existing officers internationally means the training period for officers is longer and more costly, but the benefits for the state are greater.

The funding injection also means SA Police can recruit 45 more civilians to the force, allowing existing sworn officers to be redeployed to frontline policing.

With a bigger police force, there will be an increasing number of officers focussed on critical and emerging crimes such as domestic violence, cyber-crime and counter terrorism.

With more police on the streets than ever before, communities will be better protected by officers who are more visible and accessible.

Background

The additional funding brings the police budget to its highest level in history at \$883 million, and follows more than 10 consecutive years of increases that have doubled the police budget since 2002.



Under the Police Commissioner's leadership, SAPOL is transitioning to having more police officers in the field and less desk-based officers.

These changes will increasingly connect SAPOL to the community, and ensure that operational adjustments made under the current reforms will be strengthened by a growing number of sworn officers.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

The State Government has more than doubled its investment in police and protecting our community since coming into office in 2002, with the police budget currently at its highest level in history.

We are dedicated to creating a vibrant and liveable state and having a safe, well-policed community is an essential foundation.

This funding will ensure the recruitment of more front line officers, creating not just local jobs but lifelong careers for a number of South Australians.

We want our police force to be nation-leading and to achieve this, we need to continually invest in police and strive toward the continual modernisation of the way we police within the community.

Quotes attributable to Police Minister Peter Malinauskas

The State Government and SAPOL are putting a stop to active recruitment of overseas police officers.

South Australians looking for an outstanding long-term career should have the best possible chance of serving in our police force.

Serving as a police officer in SAPOL is an incredibly rewarding profession and both the Police Commissioner and I share a commitment to ensuring South Australians are in these jobs.

An additional \$16.1 million investment in our police force means we will have the largest number of front line officers in SA's history.

The threats we face as a community have changed over time, and we need to increase our capacity to respond to the rise of threats such as cyber-crime, domestic violence and terrorism.

