

## Rebuilding the Police Service

- Reinstating the Public Order Response Team

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The Plan to rebuild essential services

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# Reinstating the Public Order Response Team

A majority Liberal Government will rebuild the Public Order Response Team and employ an additional 23 Police Officers to restore it to full capacity during our first term.

This highly visible and effective unit needs to be re-established as a properly-equipped, stand-alone unit with dedicated officers across the State to maintain a public and visible presence and crack down on anti-social and criminal behaviour in public.

**The Labor-Green Government slashed this unit in half. We will immediately begin the task of rebuilding the Public Order Response Team as a stand-alone unit and over the term of our Government it will be restored to full capacity.**

Following years of Labor budget mismanagement, in the 2011 budget Labor and the Greens slashed more than 100 police officers from the frontline, in every region across the State.

As part of their irresponsible cuts to the police service, the Labor-Green Government cut the Public Order Response Team.

This unit was responsible for maintaining a visible police presence on our streets, particularly in popular night spots like the Hobart waterfront and Launceston CBD, to prevent or deal with anti-social behaviour and serious crimes.

It is clear that cutting the number of personnel in this unit and merging it with the Traffic Services unit has diminished its effectiveness and resulted in the concerning and significant spike in serious crimes and anti-social behaviour.

In the past twelve months (as at September 2013)\* the total number of offences rose from **2394** in September 2012 to **2573**; public assaults **rose by 44 per cent** (from 61 to 88); business burglary offences **rose by 36 per cent** (from 48 to 67); and serious crime offences **rose by 15 per cent** (from 59 to 68).

**The re-establishment of the Public Order Response Team is part of the Liberals' commitment to rebuild the police frontline, crack down on crime and restore safety to the Tasmanian community.**

### Costings

\$7m over four years.

\* Statistics sourced from the Organisational Performance and Review Services page on the police intranet, released by the Police Association in September 2013.