

Serious and Organised Crime Squad

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The Plan to rebuild our essential
services

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We will invest an additional \$7.2 million over four years to properly resource this unit

Serious and Organised Crime Squad

A majority Liberal Government will immediately begin the task of rebuilding our police service to ensure that police are available to Tasmanians when they need them.

The Labor-Green government has slashed frontline police services in Tasmania as a result of its financial mismanagement. These cuts have had a far-reaching impact across the State and Tasmanians are paying the price for Labor and the Greens' financial incompetence with their safety.

As part of the cuts to frontline police services, the Government has also cut the capacity of police to tackle serious and organised crimes, leaving Tasmanians vulnerable. Police resources have been taken away from other duties on an ad-hoc basis for these serious investigations, straining the frontline.

Recent media reporting indicates there are some concerning trends of crime in Tasmania.

In the Launceston area there were 27 businesses burgled in less than one month. Moreover, the Tasmania Police March 2013 monthly Corporate Performance Report shows a spike in certain serious crimes, including burglary in parts of Tasmania. It is clear that the Government's cuts to police have given the green light to criminals – criminals that know an under-resourced police service can't monitor, investigate and respond the way it used to.

The recent spike in the number of serious shootings and armed robberies across Tasmania and the growing and unwelcome presence of bikie gangs in our suburbs is something that our police service needs to be properly resourced to deal with.

As the first stage of rebuilding the police service after Labor-Green cuts, a majority Liberal Government will establish a Serious and Organised Crime Squad consisting of 14 dedicated and specialised personnel to tackle major crime issues in Tasmania.

The Liberals will invest an additional \$7.2 million over four years to properly resource this unit and crack down on serious crime in Tasmania. The unit will also incorporate a re-established Cold Case Unit which was also axed by the Labor-Green Government.

This commitment is the first instalment on our promise to work with the Police Association and Tasmania Police to rebuild the Police Service following the Labor-Green cuts to the frontline. We will also match Labor's overdue budget commitment to re-instate a single recruitment course.