

STATE BUDGET 2020-21

MINISTER FOR POLICE, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES HON VINCENT TARZIA MP MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 10 November 2020

\$93.2 million funding boost to secure South Australia's safety

More than \$90 million in additional funding has been unveiled for SAPOL in today's 2020-21 State Budget as the Marshall Liberal Government continues to keep South Australia safe and strong.

Part of our commitment to community safety is a \$19.4m investment into fixed mobile phone detection cameras at high-risk sites across metropolitan Adelaide.

Distracted drivers who use mobile phones behind the wheel will be caught by the new high-definition cameras as the Marshall Liberal Government continues to prioritise road safety to help prevent further lives being lost on South Australian roads.

The Marshall Liberal Government's 2020-21 State Budget is building what matters, backing business, creating jobs and keeping South Australia safe and strong.

"Drivers who choose to send a text message or make a phone call are risking their lives and the lives of other road users," Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Vincent Tarzia said.

"This type of behavior is unacceptable and driving habits like mobile phone use can cause tragedies on our roads. These kinds of incidents are preventable."

"Distraction is one of the Fatal Five offences alongside speeding, drink and drug driving, seatbelt wearing and dangerous driving. These key factors cause serious injuries on our roads and, sadly, prevent people from arriving home safely to their loved ones."

The funding will cover the installation of the cameras over two years with their operation expected to commence from September 2022.

A further \$34.9m will be spent on the transformation of SAPOL's mobile workforce to upgrade key operational systems, acquire new technology and deliver remote connectivity to increase the capability of all officers.

SAPOL's fixed wing operation will also benefit from a cash injection, worth \$6.2m, which will secure the aviation contract until early 2023.

In the lead-up to today's State Budget, the Marshall Liberal Government announced \$8.5m to strengthen the safety of South Australian police officers with new personal issue high-performance vests that are resistant to attacks involving edged weapons and firearms.

Rollout of the multi-purpose load bearing vests over a two-year period will boost the protection of patrols on the frontline.

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In addition, the Marshall Liberal Government will support Crime Stoppers with an unprecedented cash boost of more than \$800,000 over four years.

This support of \$200,000 per year, indexed, from 2020-21 will go a long way to continue the great work of the not-for-profit organisation.

At this time, the Marshall Liberal Government has decided to discontinue the introduction of a user pays scheme to recover costs for police attendance at significant events in South Australia.

The Department for Correctional Services will receive \$500,000 to conduct a business case for a new rehabilitation prison.

Feasibility will be assessed to address possible future requirements of the state's prison system.

In the Emergency Services Sector, around \$100m has been dedicated to creating a safer, stronger and more bushfire resilient South Australia.

The Marshall Liberal Government's unprecedented and comprehensive \$97.5 million action plan was announced in September and includes a range of support, including enhanced communications and technology, better protection for critical assets and additional support and resources for volunteers, including extra staff and equipment.

Former Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty AO conducted an Independent Review after South Australia's tragic and most recent bushfire season. A total of 68 findings and 15 recommendations were identified.

"The Marshall Liberal Government acted quickly and efficiently on the Keelty Review findings to help fortify South Australia ahead of the upcoming bushfire season," Minister Tarzia said.