Anthony Roberts
Shadow Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism
Robyn Preston
Member for Hawkesbury

MEDIA RELEASE

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LABOR FAILS TO KEEP NSW SAFE AS POLICE NUMBERS DECLINE

A sharp decline in police numbers across NSW has sparked criticism from Shadow Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, Anthony Roberts.

Recently reported public sector data has shown there are now just 176 police officers for every 100,000 people in New South Wales, down from 205 in 2019, despite the state's population continuing to grow.

Mr Roberts said the figures confirm what many communities are already feeling: fewer police on the beat at a time when gang crime and community safety concerns are rising.

"Families across New South Wales are increasingly worried about crime in their communities, the last thing NSW should be seeing is fewer police on the streets," Mr Roberts said.

"Day after day families are reading news of gang-related violence and organised crime activity in their suburbs, with a shooting in Lidcombe just this morning. Under the Minns Labor Government, community safety continues to be an afterthought."

"Police are already under immense pressure. When the force is understaffed, it means longer response times, greater strain on officers and fewer police available to keep our neighbourhoods safe."

Ms Preston said that a lack of investment in Police in rapid growth areas particularly in the North West region is putting strain on existing police resources.

"Our area covers a large geographic region with many rural and semi-rural communities. When police numbers decline, it puts additional strain on local officers who are already working hard to respond across vast distances."

"Communities such as Box Hill and Gables are expanding at an extraordinary pace, yet they continue to rely on the one police station at Castle Hill to service a rapidly growing population. I am supportive of an additional police station at Rouse Hill which Mayor Dr Michelle Byrne, Mayor of The Hills Shire Council has also been advocating for," Ms Preston said.

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