Government heeds our call for tougher jail sentences for pursuit hoons

The Police Association welcomes today’s announcement by the Victorian Government that it will today introduce legislation that will see motorists who trigger a police pursuit after failing to stop for police to face a maximum of three years jail.

The idea of introducing stiffer penalties for these offenders was presented to the Government several months ago by The Police Association and it is pleasing that the Government has responded with today’s announcement.

The Police Association had asked the government to consider making ‘evading police in a motor vehicle’ an indictable offence, carrying an appropriate, lengthy, term of imprisonment. Should the legislation introduced into the parliament today become law, this is exactly what will happen.

Currently, those who fail to stop for police are dealt with by a magistrate who can only impose a maximum six-month jail term under the Road Safety Act.

The Association had always been of the strong view that there should be a greater deterrent against fleeing police when in a motor car. Eventually the message will start to hit home, if fleeing drivers are sent to prison for a lengthy term.

Moreover, we believe that tougher laws in this area will also serve to shift the focus on to the law breakers rather than our members who are simply doing their sworn duty in trying to catch suspects who not only break the law, but put our members, other motorists and themselves in extreme danger.

If this effect of this legislation is that it saves just one life, then it will be worth it.

The Police Association will inform members if and when this legislation is passed and come into effect.

GREG DAVIES
Secretary