

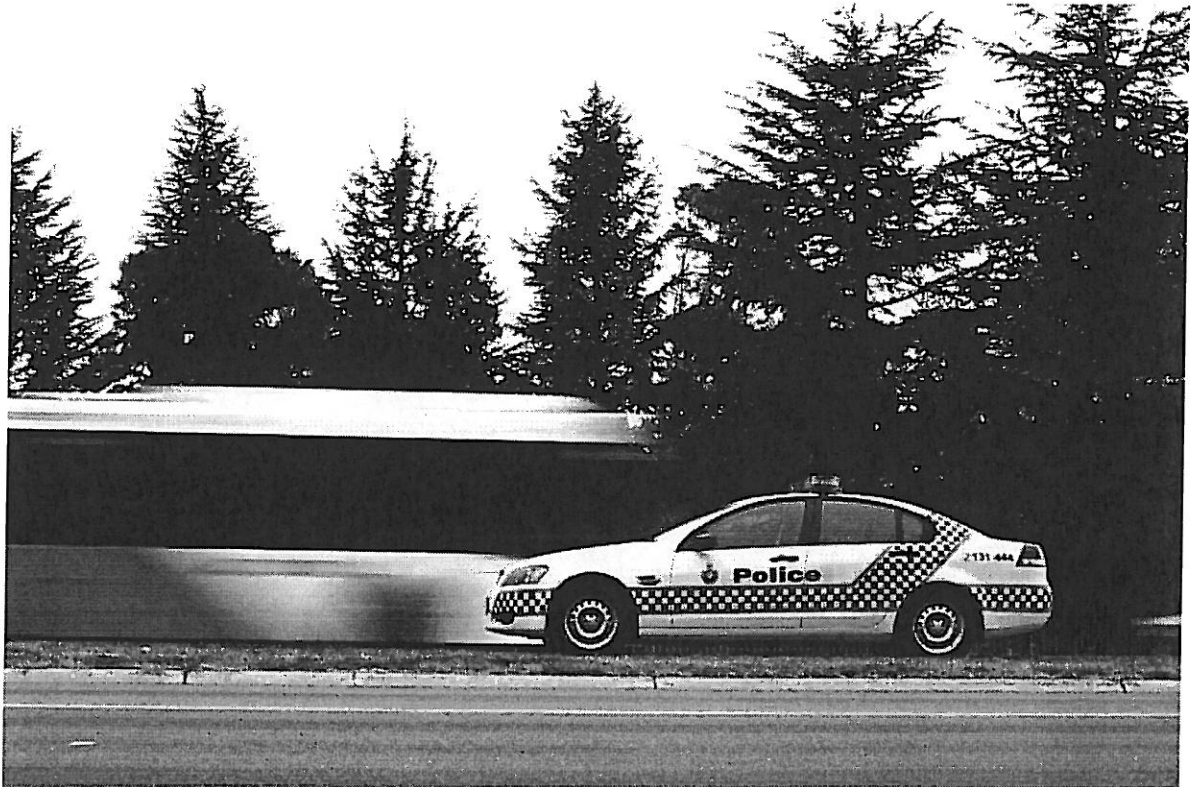
## AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

### AFP MARKED VEHICLES DRIVEN BY PSOs & PSO UNIFORMS

Suggested paragraphs:

- The Association/Union has no difficulty with the fact that the new vehicles driven by Australian Protective Services (PSOs) officers are red in line with international standards requiring high visibility.
- What we do object to is the re-branding of the vehicles in such a way that the general public is confused about whether the officers are police.
- You will recall that the appearance of the vehicles that PSOs previously drove were quite distinctive, bearing the words **Australian Protective Services** in large bold letters along the side of the cars. No one could be in any doubt that the officers were PSOs and not police.
- The vehicles were not marked **AFP** or **Australian Federal Police** as they are now, and they did not have the distinctive **black and white checkered band** which uniquely symbolizes police both Australia-wide and internationally and now 'brands' the PSO vehicles.
- We have similar concerns about the PSOs uniforms, branded with a new AFP shoulder flash, which look very much like police with the minor distinction of the **Protective Service** epaulettes and a different coloured name plate. Although there is no checkered hat band, they have the appearance of police uniforms.
- We are of the opinion that the AFP's branding exercise is both misleading and deceptive. As a consequence, we think it is contrary to the public interest. It appears that the AFP may be trying to build a perception in the community that there are more AFP police officers than there in fact are.
- Since the so-called integration and branding – 'designed to ensure easy recognition' - of the vehicles and uniforms, the reverse has been achieved, the results being:
  - widespread confusion on the part of the general public and the assumption on the part of the public that the vehicles are driven/staffed by police officers; and

- PSOs being mistaken for police officers, asked by the public for police services, and criticized for not then responding to incidents as if they were police.
- Ultimately, this is a safety issue – safety of the public, safety of PSOs and safety of police –
  - the public, thinking they can access police assistance when they cannot;
  - PSOs, being placed in a situation where they are expected to do things they are not trained for or have the power to do; and
  - police, thinking they have more trained and qualified colleagues to rely on than are actually available.
- We believe this action by the Australian Federal Police is unprecedented in Australian policing and is totally unacceptable.
- The Association/Union seeks the state/territory Ministers and Commissioners support by writing to the Federal Minister for Home Affairs the Hon Bob Debus and AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty seeking them to take steps to have the vehicle markings and uniforms of Australian Protective Service Officers changed to a distinctive PSO livery which cannot be mistaken by the general public for AFP police officer vehicles and uniforms.



ACT Police Vehicle



AFP Aviation Vehicle



AFP Protection Vehicle