

Two new commissioners welcomed

The New South Wales and Tasmania Police Services both have new commissioners at the helm. AFP Commissioner Mick Palmer has expressed his support for the new leaders as they take up duties with their respective organisations.

NSW chief an internationally-recognised leader in policing



Incoming commissioner of the NSW Police Service, Peter Ryan, would have total support from commissioners around Australia, Mr Palmer said recently.

Mr Ryan, 52, has more than 33 years' operational and managerial policing experience in the United Kingdom.

In announcing the appointment in June, NSW Premier Bob Carr said the NSW Police Board had unanimously agreed that Mr Ryan, who leaves the role of the UK's National Director of Police Training, was the "superior candidate" for commissioner.

The Premier along with NSW Police Minister Paul Whelan endorsed Mr Ryan as an internationally-recognised leader in policing.

Mr Whelan said the incoming commissioner would be the first NSW Commissioner to have the support of a royal commission, the Police Integrity Commission and the government.

Justice James Wood, who has presided over the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service, said that Mr Ryan's appointment came in the critical reconstruction phase of the service.

Mr Palmer said: "It's a huge ask and a huge task and the size of the organisation doesn't make that any easier".

Commissioner Palmer, also from a police service outside of that which he now leads, said that the new chief's experience as a British chief constable would stand him in good stead.

NSW Police Commissioner Peter Ryan

Former deputy takes top role in Tasmania



Taking up duty as Commissioner of the Tasmania Police is former Deputy Commissioner of the service Richard McCreadie.

He replaces retired Commissioner John Johnson and said recently that the major reforms, restructuring and modernisation begun under Mr Johnson's leadership would continue to take high priority.

He said he is committed to seeing through the 31 major reforms of the restructuring process, including Project Baton – a business structure process to re-engineer the service – which concentrates on more policing rather than on more police.

The most pressing issues to be addressed were the perception of crime and the difficulties encountered on the streets in the central business districts around Tasmania. A task force had been assigned to identify the biggest problem times in these areas and establish mechanisms for coping with them. He said his task as commissioner would be to establish recognition of the Tasmania Police as a premier police service.

Former Deputy Commissioner of the Tasmania Police, Richard McCreadie, now the first Tasmanian to be appointed Commissioner of the service in more than 20 years.