



## ▼ FROM THE DESK OF....

### **Multiuse Integrated Protection Vest (MIPV)**

As many of you would be aware, research and trials have been undertaken for close to two years to identify a suitable replacement for the current issue ballistic vests. I am pleased to announce that Hellweg International has been awarded a \$1.8M contract to issue every sworn member of Tasmania Police with a Multiuse Integrated Protection Vest (MIPV).

The vests will be worn full time by frontline members working in areas such as uniform and RPOS. The vests will significantly increase the safety of members, ensuring that officers are equipped with the latest in personal protection.



R Cowling  
Assistant Commissioner  
Planning and Development

Every member will be individually fitted out in the coming weeks for their vests. These vests will provide protection from ballistic and edged weapon threats, and provide significant benefits in terms of load carriage. With the exception of the firearm, all accoutrements will be moved to the vest and it is anticipated this improved distribution of weight will reduce incidents of back, leg and hip pain caused by overloaded utility belts.



With the introduction of the MIPV members will also be issued with a new uniform. As a result of feedback provided during the uniform review and MIPV trials, it was evident that another uniform would be required for operational policing. Members will be issued with summer and winter undergarments to be worn with the MIPV, hard wearing operational trousers with pockets on the thighs, a soft shell jacket for added warmth and a separate rain coat. The focus when selecting this uniform has been on quality and practicality for members whilst retaining our professional image. Members working in office based positions will continue to wear the current style uniform.

The roll out of the MIPVs and new uniform will commence in April 2015 with the first stage of the roll out for frontline members. Further information in regards to the MIPV and uniform can be found on the MIPV intranet page (available from the Quick-Links). Members are encouraged to book an appointment through the intranet site to be measured up for their new vests during the timeframes allocated for each District.

### **R Cowling**

Assistant Commissioner  
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