



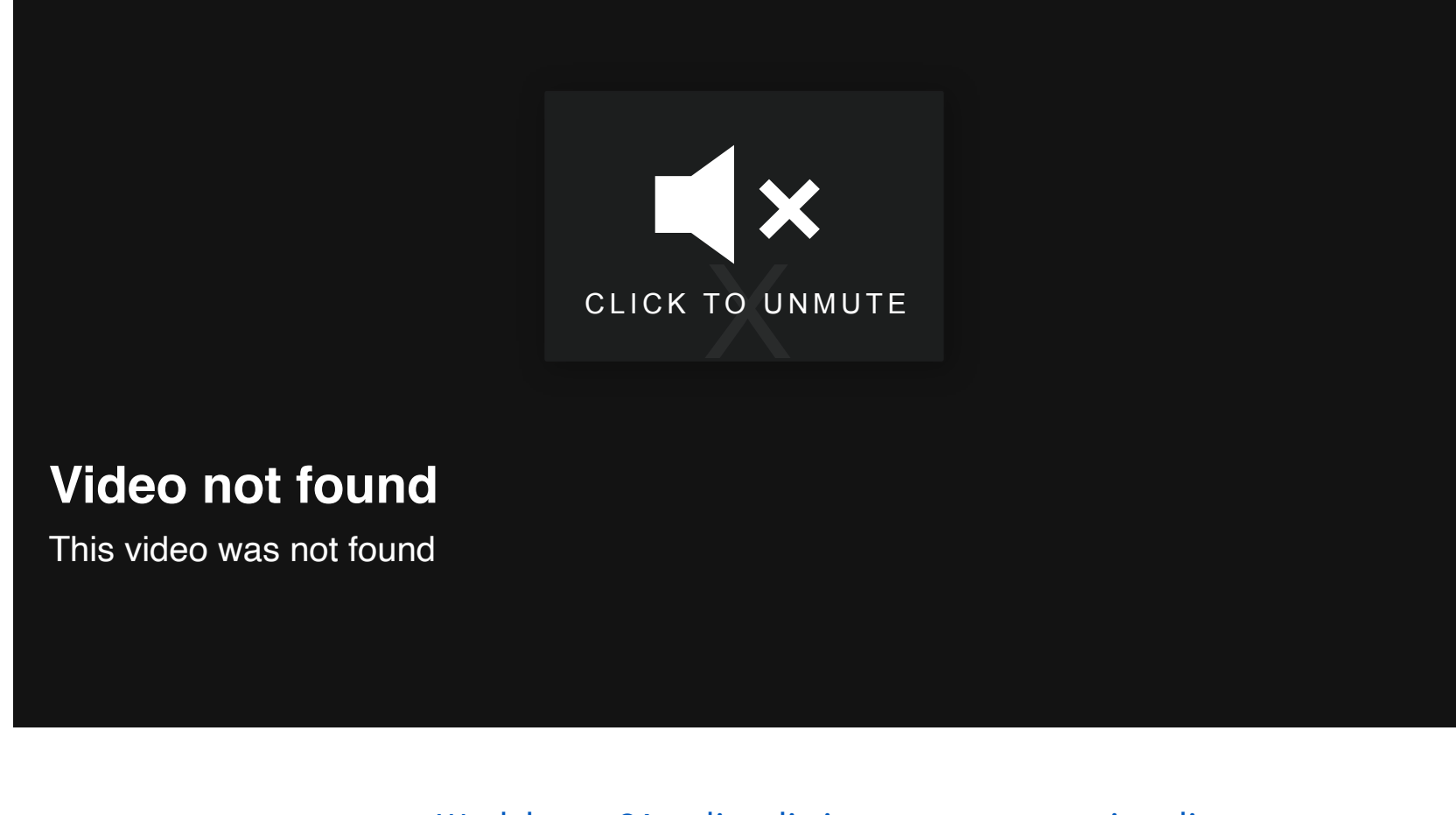
## City march, workplace action approved by police union over work injury compensation laws

POLICE Association delegates have voted to support widespread workplace changes to minimise risk to officers if radical changes removing medical and financial compensation are not restored.

**Nigel Hunt**

November 11, 2015 - 5:36PM The Advertiser

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WIDE-RANGING changes to police work practices have been approved by police union workplace delegates if medical and compensation benefits for officers are not restored.

The delegates have also endorsed a police march and rally at Parliament House next Wednesday to highlight concerns over the Return to Work Act and its impact on injured officers.

Police Association president Mark Carroll said the delegates had “unanimously” supported the motions put forward and reinforced their commitment to have benefits to injured officers restored.

They include the phasing out of solo police patrols, increasing one person stations to two person stations across the state, doubling foot patrols in city trouble spots and issuing all officers with Tasers to protect themselves.

“We will have to minimise the risk of injury to officers if we do not have appropriate compensation arrangements for those who put themselves in harms way to protect their communities,” he said.

Police Association president Mark Carroll.

“If the government is going to take away entitlements for officers who are injured on duty then we have to look at how we go about our business.”

Under the new Return to Work Act there are caps on compensation for all injured workers, along with a two year cap on income maintenance and a three year cap on medical expenses.

Only workers who exceed a 30 per cent impairment scale will receive any benefits beyond those caps — excluding the vast majority of police injured on duty.

Family First MLC Robert Brokenshire has introduced an amendment to the Police Act to restore compensation for police to the former level.

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“The delegates have called on the Weatherill government to support the Bill that will go to the legislative council on November 18,” Mr Carroll said.

“We hope it will pass and be supported by both the government and the Opposition.”

Since the union launched its campaign to have the Brokenshire amendment supported last Friday almost 15,000 people have visited the campaign website and 8,000 people have signed the online petition and sent a message to the government.

Premier Jay Weatherill on Wednesday said the police association “had agitated very faintly” when the legislation was being debated and the government had offered to talk to resolve “individual, hard cases.”

He also said none of the officers who had been highlighted in the campaign “had lost a cent” and he did not believe this would happen.

Mr Carroll rejected his assertions, stating that he had been put on notice the union was “most unsatisfied” with the Return to Work Act in October, 2014, when he attended PASA’s annual conference.

At the conference he urged Mr Weatherill “and your parliamentary colleagues to work with us in finding the right balance and fair go.”

### Motions passed at the meeting.

1. The phasing out of solo work by police officers.
2. Increasing all one-person stations in South Australia to two-person stations.
3. Dedicated beat patrols in the entertainment districts of the GPO in Adelaide to operate

as crews of a minimum of three after 6pm; and those crews to be a minimum of four on

Friday and Saturday shifts and other special events.

4. The security-hardening of all police premises so as to prevent the risk of terrorist and

other incidents.

5. Installation of comprehensive CCTV and monitoring of all police stations and immediate

environs.

6. Tasers to be carried by every uniform general-duties and traffic operational member.

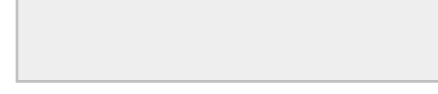
7. A thigh holster to be available for all operational members for carriage of firearm.

8. Personal-issue covert body armour for all operational police.

9. All close-personal-protection duty to be performed by a minimum of two officers.

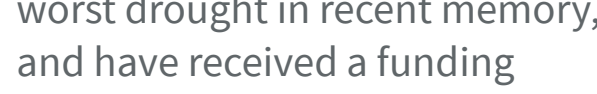
10. Annual psychological testing of all police officers and unlimited counselling services from

independent providers of choice for police requiring psychological assistance.



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