

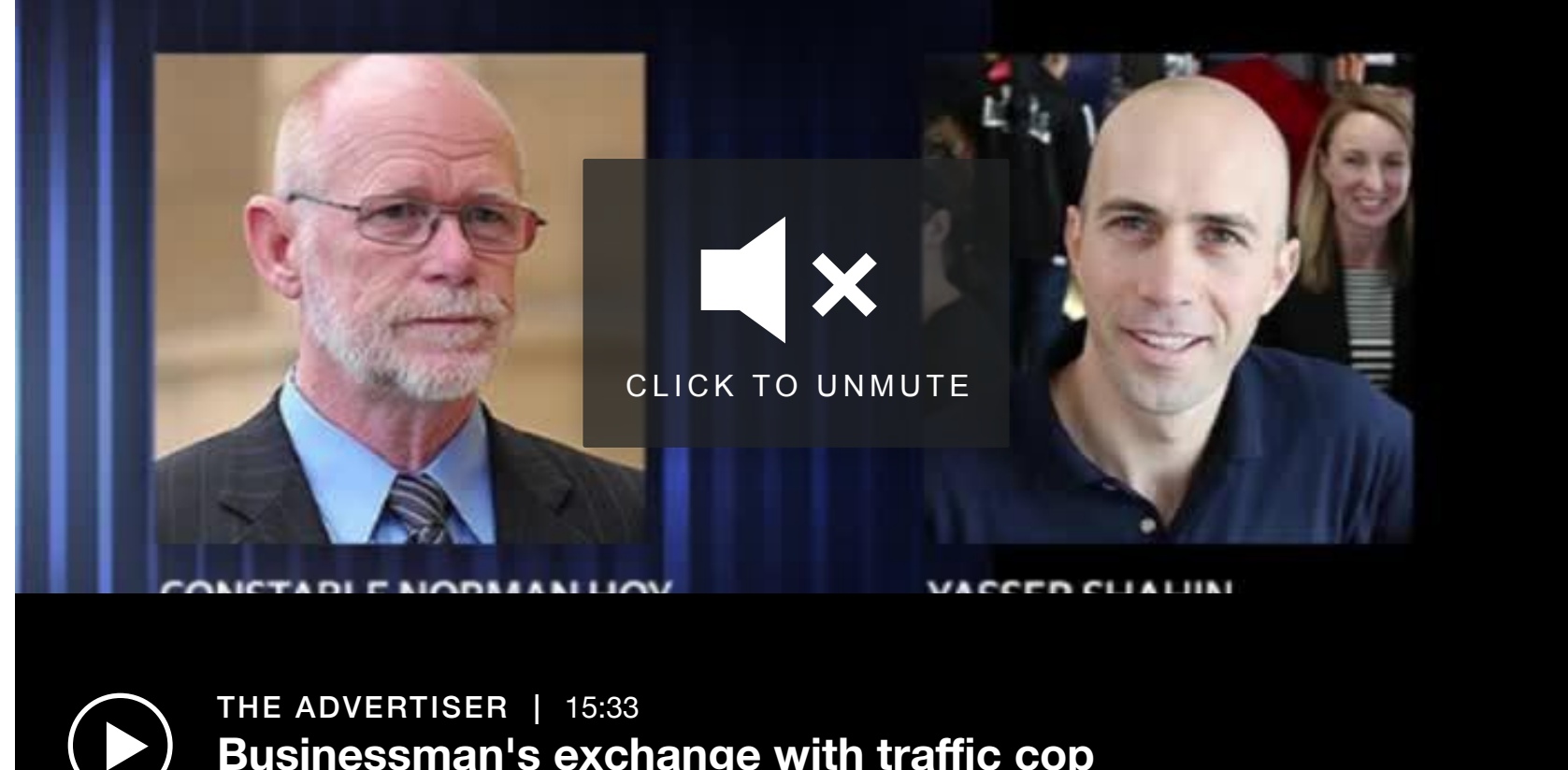


Police Association president Mark Carroll wants all frontline officers equipped with the video cameras

VIDEO cameras attached to police uniforms are a "common sense" tool that will improve conviction rates and reduce complaints against officers, the union says.

POLICE REPORTER STEVE RICE

January 24, 2015 - 9:22PM The Advertiser



An audio recording of businessman Yasser Shahin's confrontation with Constable Norman Hoy.

VIDEO cameras attached to police uniforms are a "common sense" tool that will improve conviction rates and reduce complaints against officers, the union says.

Police Association president Mark Carroll wants the State Government to provide police with urgent funding to equip all frontline officers with the cameras.

"The technology allows police to take compelling footage at incident scenes and has the potential to improve evidence provided to the courts," he said.

"It will help to streamline the court process, which is good for police, defendants and the wider community."

The State Government says it will consider the results of police trials of the body-worn video cameras before funding the technology.

The Opposition has previously flagged that it will provide police with the cameras if elected.

The renewed calls come after a police officer was acquitted of assaulting millionaire businessman Yasser Shahin during a September 2010 traffic stop.

Constable Norman Hoy, 59, was found not guilty of aggravated assault by a District Court jury on Friday.

During the trial, jurors heard audio of Const Hoy's altercation with Mr Shahin, which Mr Carroll said was vital in the case.

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Constable Norman Hoy

Police Association president Mark Carroll.

[Lawyers for Const Hoy obtained an injunction to stop The Advertiser from publishing significant details about their client, only hours after the verdict was delivered.](#)

Body-worn video cameras have been trialed by police in SA, interstate and overseas, and will be worn by 1000 frontline officers in New South Wales when they are rolled out in July at a cost of \$4 million.

The NSW Government hopes cameras, which weigh less than 200g and have six hours' battery life, will lead to a better conviction rate and reduce complaints against police and injuries to officers.

Mr Carroll said the time had come to make body-worn video cameras available to all frontline officers in SA.

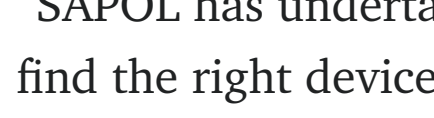
"Body-worn video is used extensively by police abroad and its use in South Australia is a common sense addition to the police kit," he said.

"Body-worn video also has the potential to reduce the number of ... complaints made against police."

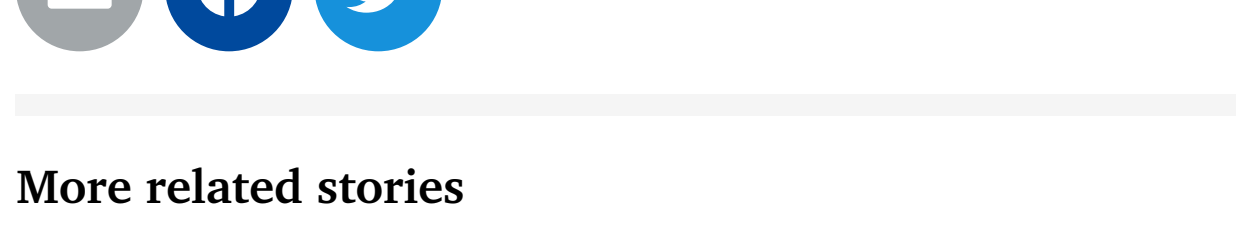
A police spokeswoman said it would continue to trial different options to find the best device possible.

Police Minister Tony Piccolo said the Government would consider the results of any trials.

"SAPOL has undertaken trials and continues the project to find the right device and storage capability to meet legislative and state records requirements," he said.



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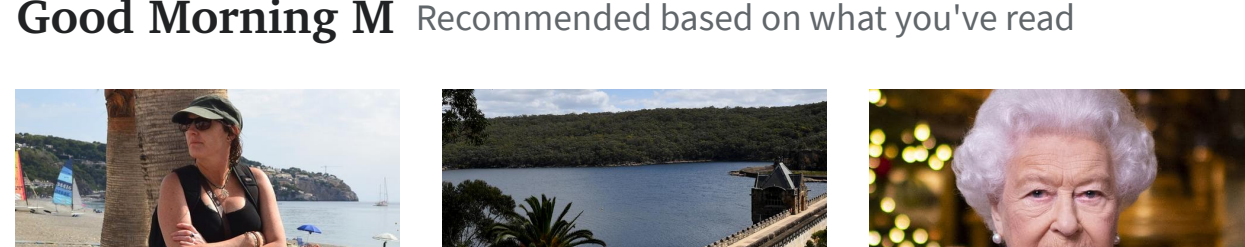
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