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**TRAVELSAFE
COMMITTEE**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE

**OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
(SPECIALIST SERVICES)**

Your Ref: IQ 18
Our Ref: TF/2007/001475
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Mr Jim Pearce
Chair
Travelsafe Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Pearce

AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION SUBMISSION

Thank you for your letter dated 31 October 2007 to the Hon John Kobelke MLA, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, relating to Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) usage in Western Australia.

Currently the WA Police have four "PIPS Technology - P362 Auto Kit 2" ANPR units which were purchased in 2004 from Aspect Traffic in Turrumurra NSW.

In Western Australia the ANPR involves a deployed tripod camera device being used to extract number-plate data via Optical Character Recognition (OCR) from passing vehicles. This enables the matching of OCR data against a data-set developed by WA Police. If the data is successfully matched, an alert is forwarded to the police operator indicating the vehicle has an outstanding inquiry.

The WA Police fully supports the continued use of ANPR technology and will continue to improve its organisational capabilities by reviewing new technology.

Mission Statement: "To enhance the quality of life and well-being of all people in Western Australia by contributing to making our State a safe and secure place."

In November 2007 WA Police commenced working with CrimTrac to develop a National ANPR data-set information file. As you are aware, CrimTrac is a major provider of information services to Australian law enforcement agencies and I believe this partnership will assist our agency to develop a more comprehensive capability which will ensure a high standard of information, intelligence and enforcement capacity available within this jurisdiction.

In conclusion, there are no privacy restrictions associated with using ANPR within the WA Policing jurisdiction and, into the future, WA Police intend using this technology in the following domains of policing:

1. Traffic Enforcement;
2. Counter Terrorism;
3. Intelligence led policing; and
4. General policing activities.

Please do not hesitate to contact Superintendent Nigel White if you require any further information from a Police perspective.

Yours sincerely


M W (Murray) LAMPARD APM
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (SPECIALIST SERVICES)

 December 2007