

Tuesday, 6 May 2025

NEW CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE APPOINTED

The Victorian Government has appointed Mike Bush CNZM as the next Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Police Anthony Carbines today congratulated Mr Bush on the role. He will step into the top job on 27 June 2025.

His appointment follows an extensive recruitment process that spanned local, interstate and international police organisations.

Mr Bush has more than 40 years of operational and strategic police experience under his belt, including six years as Commissioner and Chief Executive of New Zealand Police.

During his time leading New Zealand Police, Mr Bush oversaw a significant transformation which saw more public trust and confidence in police, lower crime rates, a bigger focus on early intervention, and better staff culture.

Mr Bush helped New Zealanders through disasters and times of immense trauma including the Christchurch Terror Attack, the Whakaari White Island eruption and COVID-19.

Mr Bush also recently supported the Fiji Government to reform the country's police organisation and is a proud ambassador for organisations that support the welfare and wellbeing of police and first responders.

Until Mr Bush begins his term in June, Deputy Commissioner Robert Hill will serve as acting Chief Commissioner, with current acting Chief Rick Nugent to depart on Thursday. The Government thanks Rick Nugent for acting in the role until a permanent replacement had been chosen.

The Government also thanks outgoing Chief Commissioner Shane Patton for his long and decorated service and his leadership of Victoria Police through challenging times.

Under the *Victoria Police Act*, the Chief Commissioner is appointed by the Governor in Council for a five year-term.

Quotes attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan

"We've picked the right person for the job."

"Mike Bush will bring new leadership to Victoria Police."

"He made the community safer in New Zealand and he'll make the community safer in Victoria."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Police Anthony Carbines

"Mike Bush brings more than 40 years of experience to this role. I look forward to working with him to deliver for Victoria Police members and keep Victorians safe."

"Shane Patton led Victoria Police members through challenging times and dedicated his life to that service. I thank him, and I also thank Rick Nugent and Robert Hill for stepping up to lead the force in an acting capacity."