

Bike squad expands

By Tom Hilston,
Media and Public Affairs Branch

With increased traffic congestion and a trend towards cleaner greener transport, Brisbane's police are turning to bicycles as the preferred means of patrolling the city.

Brisbane City Division has long had a bike squad but that contingent is about to expand into a full-time unit with more than a dozen bicycles and trail bikes to police the inner city's bike paths, footpaths, parks and roads.

"They are going to be a fun but extremely effective way to address policing issues in the division," Bike Squad Project Manager Sergeant Chris Ferguson said.

Bicycle patrols are not new to the Queensland Police Service with about 44 stations throughout the state adopting bicycle patrols in some form.

But for the first time police will now have a dedicated team of full-time Bicycle and Trail Bike Patrol Officers with standardised uniforms, equipment and training setting the model for similar patrols.

"Bike squad officers will be part of our first-response general duties police – just with a different uniform and a different mode of transport," Sergeant Ferguson said.

"Bikes have always been a fantastic method of patrolling an inner-city environment, especially during peak traffic periods.

"They can go faster and further through traffic than a car or beat crew and can get into places a car can't go," he said.

The bike patrol will be mounted on state-of-the-art mountain bikes with full suspension, disc brakes, high intensity emergency lights and saddlebags capable of carrying a wide range of policing equipment.

Apart from crime prevention there is an added bonus for the bike patrol officers in terms of personal fitness.

"They promote health and fitness not only among the officers and are a great way to enhance public relations," Sergeant Ferguson said.

The bikes are set to hit the streets in the second half of the year. ■

