



Police Transport Command dedicated to a safer public transport network – Operation Merge III

Issued at 10am, Sunday 27 May 2012

*****Editors Note: Footage of the operation is available via a YouSendIt link. Still images will be available later today by contacting NSW Police Force's Media Unit on (02) 8263 6100.*****

The NSW Premier has congratulated NSW Police on reinforcing the commitment to improve safety on the State's trains, buses and ferries after dozens of people were arrested during a two-day operation.

Uniformed and plain-clothes officers from the Police Transport Command (PTC) executed Operation Merge III on Friday (25 May) and Saturday (26 May) nights, targeting criminal and anti-social behaviour across the public transport network.

Acting Police Transport Commander, Acting Assistant Commissioner Max Mitchell, said officers were deployed throughout the Sydney metropolitan area, as well as the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Hunter and Illawarra regions.

“Officers patrolled railway stations, bus interchanges, wharves and nearby licensed premises, and performed duties while travelling on hundreds of train, bus and ferry services,” Acting A/C Mitchell said.

“During the two nights, 54 people were arrested and 59 charges were laid for offences including assault, assault police, malicious damage, supply and possess prohibited drug, and offensive behaviour.

“Officers also arrested a 26-year-old Queensland man who had an outstanding warrant for an assault in 2009.

“A drug-detection dog was deployed by the Dog Unit to assist with the operation, resulting in a number of arrests and the seizure of illegal drugs, including ecstasy, speed and cannabis,” Assistant Commissioner Mitchell said.

About 9.20pm Friday, a 22-year-old Miranda man was detected by the drug dog on a train between Central and Kings Cross.

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During a search of the man, police located and seized 200 ecstasy tablets. He was charged with two counts of supply prohibited drug and one count possess prohibited drug.

He has been refused bail to appear at Central Local Court tomorrow (Monday 28 May 2012).

“Police conducted 290 person searches and seized a knife and graffiti materials, including spray paint.

“192 people were issued move-on directions and another 70 people were given official cautions and 420 rail infringement notices were issued.

“In total, 632 trains and 90 buses were patrolled by PTC officers, ensuring the safety and well-being of thousands of commuters,” Assistant Commissioner Mitchell said.

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell said this police crackdown demonstrated the determination of the NSW Government to make the State's public transport system as safe as possible.

“Safety is the top priority for my Government and this NSW Police Force operation shows we are fair dinkum,” Mr O'Farrell said.

“The new Police Transport Command – which is about putting police back on trains, buses and ferries – is already having an impact, as demonstrated by the success of this operation,” he said.

“I congratulate the NSW Police Force for this initiative and warn any would-be criminals there are more to come, so my message to them is: obey the law or else.”

Deputy Commissioner Nick Kaldas, said Operation Merge was proving to be an important operation for the Police Transport Command.

“Since it was established on May 1, the Police Transport Command has implemented a number of strategies to reduce crime and the fear of crime across the public transport network, including Operation Merge II and III,” Deputy Commissioner Kaldas said.

“These targeted operations have resulted in the arrest and charge of almost 100 people, which is in addition to the hundreds of arrests and charges PTC officers have made this month in day-to-day operations.

“The NSW Police Force is committed to providing a safe and secure public transport system, a system that every commuter feels confident to travel aboard at any time and to-or-from anywhere.

“The PTC will continue to plan and implement operations based on crime linkages and trends, to ensure officers are deployed to the right places at the right times and effectively utilise available resources,” Deputy Commissioner Kaldas said.

For more information about the Police Transport Command, visit their Eyewatch page:
www.facebook.com/transportcommandnswpf

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