



VICTORIA POLICE

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Chief Commissioner of Police

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Coroner Simon McGregor
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Subject: John Beirouti -
Finding into death with inquest
Court Reference: COR 2021 0462
Date of Recommendations: 19 September 2022

Dear Coroner McGregor

Victoria Police response to recommendations arising from the Finding into the death of John Beirouti

This letter provides the response to your recommendation to Victoria Police arising from the finding into the death of John Beirouti, delivered on 19 September 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chief Commissioner reconsider and amend the new VPM Road Policing – Operations policy to provide clear guidance on operational policing decisions, specifically but not limited to the direction that ‘police members are required to discontinue the attempted intercept and not follow the vehicle’.

Victoria Police supports the recommendation. The Coroner’s recommendation will be implemented.

In light of Coroner McGregor’s Finding, Road Policing Command (RPC) undertook a preliminary review of the Victoria Police Manual – Road Policing – Operations (VPM RPO). Victoria Police accepts there is an opportunity to amend the VPM RPO to provide greater clarity and support to operational members.

Victoria Police welcomes the opportunity for continuous improvement and has committed to conduct a full, in-depth review of the VPM RPO. The main objective of the review will be to ensure the policy governing vehicle intercepts, extended follows and pursuits conveys clear and unambiguous requirements to operational police members.

A key consideration of the review will be to provide police members with clear guidance to assist operational decision making in dynamic situations, particularly where vehicle intercepts may escalate to either extended follows or pursuits. The review will also ensure consistency across relevant Victoria Police policies.

Road Policing Strategy Division has been assigned responsibility to conduct the review, which will be overseen by the Assistant Commissioner RPC for endorsement and implementation.

Yours sincerely,



Shane Patton APM
Chief Commissioner

5/12/22