



New South Wales Government

The Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Police
Minister for Lands
Minister for Rural Affairs
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

Tuesday, 2 June 2009

Fast New DNA Robots Will Double DNA testing Capacity

Minister for Police, Tony Kelly said today that new \$1.3 million DNA robot technology will double the current DNA sample processing capacity.

“DNA forensics revolutionised crime fighting 20 years ago – giving police access to cutting edge technology linking criminals to their crime,” Mr Kelly said.

“The introduction of DNA robots allows the NSW Police Force to take another significant step forward in the use of DNA technology.”

Mr Kelly said the new robots will boost the number of DNA samples processed from about 28,000 to 62,000 each year with the same number of staff.

“The robots will free up laboratory staff to collect and prepare DNA samples for analysis, making the DNA process faster and more effective for NSW Police.

“The ‘*liquid-handling platform*’ consists of six robot ‘*islands*’ which can handle comprehensive liquid solutions and is capable of unsupervised operation.

“Some of the robots will work to extract samples for analysis such as sperm, bloodstains, and saliva swabs, while other robots will assist in preparing the extracted samples for analysis.

Mr Kelly said that these new DNA robots have undergone an extensive validation process and begin full operations next month.

“The Rees Government is committed to providing our police with the best resources to assist them.

Mr Kelly said the Rees Government is committed to investing \$25 million over four years to undertake more DNA tests, speed up testing and purchase new cutting edge forensic technology.

“These new robots are part of a more than \$4 million program to install new technology for forensic DNA testing.

“Modern policing is about smart policing and this investment ensures the NSW Police Force have access to some of the world’s best equipment in the field of DNA technology.”

The new technology will be operated by scientists from the Division of Analytical Laboratories (DAL) from Sydney West Area Health Service for the NSW Police Force.

Media Contact: Alex McGregor on 0404 015 556