

Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP

Shadow Minister for Police

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Police budget cuts despite 16 shootings since New Year's Eve

SA Police will be forced to find \$150 million in savings over four years, despite South Australia recording 16 shootings since New Year's Eve.

This is compared to three for the same period last year.

It was also revealed the number of police officers is expected to be reduced by 71 in the 2012-13 financial year.

Police Commissioner Gary Burns also said that 77 per cent of SAPOL's budget was for salaries and further reductions to police numbers "was on the cards".

"The Weatherill Labor Government is putting police in a very tough position by asking them to address a spike in shootings – 16 since New Year's Eve – whilst significantly cutting their resources," said Shadow Minister for Police Dan van Holst Pellekaan.

"It is no coincidence that over \$100 million of the \$150 million in cuts are planned straight after the 2014 election.

"The huge savings task that is 'concerning' to the Police Commissioner is a result of the Weatherill Labor Government's extremely poor financial mismanagement.

"The savings measures are another slap in the face to the Labor Government's rhetoric that they are 'tough on crime'."