



# Cops banned from posing with polities

By NADJA HAINKE

POLICE Commissioner John McRoberts (pictured above) has ordered his officers not to be filmed with politicians.

The directive was issued after CLP candidate Natasha Griggs featured a uniformed police officer in one of her campaign ads.

Mr McRoberts said he was unaware of the short video clip.

"I haven't actually seen it," he said. And he said he was not pressured by the Labor party.

"I run the police ... it had nothing to do with any political party."

Officers around the Territory received an email on Thursday ordering them not to be filmed with political candidates.

The move was to stay consistent with the Westminster System which asks law enforcement agencies to

stay impartial from political parties.

The directive was sent out as Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments are entering election mode.

Mrs Griggs admitted yesterday she had used her husband Paul in her campaign video. The uniformed man has his back turned to the camera and his face is not shown.

The video shows him talking to the politician while a voice over

points out rising crime levels across the Territory.

Ms Griggs said her husband had told the Police Commissioner that he was married to a CLP candidate.

And she said he had done nothing wrong by taking part in the video.

"I should be able to have my husband, who is a strong supporter, with his face in the camera," she said. "However he didn't — he complied with the proper rules."

Mr McRoberts faced questions regarding the directive as he opened a new police shop at Palmerston Shopping Centre alongside Labor Member for Solomon Damian Hale yesterday.

He said the opening was no political campaign.

But Mrs Griggs, who will be running against Mr Hale in the next federal election, was asking for consistency.

## ... as Griggs holds press conference outside police station



IT'S A WORRY: Natasha Griggs with one of her two vandalised vehicles yesterday. Picture: JUSTIN SANSON

COUNTRY Liberals candidate Natasha Griggs has had two separate vandal attacks on her cars in as many weeks.

Ms Griggs held a press conference outside the Casuarina Police Station to show the media the damage to her ute just as Police Commissioner John McRoberts was telling officers not to be filmed with political candidates.

Ms Griggs — whose cars are plastered in campaign material for the seat of Solomon — said she found her husband's Ford Falcon XR6 with a hole in the windscreen and some of the tray's contents strewn over the road.

A pen and a piece of paper — with a scrawled swear-word on it — had been shoved into the windscreen's hole.

The vandal attack happened outside the Country Liberals' office on McMillans Rd between

6.30pm and 7.30pm on Thursday.

She said she had been using her husband's car because her own car had been keyed a fortnight ago while parked at Casuarina Shopping Square.

Both cars advertised Ms Griggs' picture, name and political affiliation.

But she said she did not think the acts were provoked by anti-CLP or anti-politician sentiment — just indicative of a loss of family values.

"I don't think it's politically motivated at all," she said.

"Random acts of violence and vandalism are happening to all Territorians ... and this sort of stuff shouldn't be happening."

Ms Griggs said she wanted a return to family values, but she did not detail which strategies should be used to accomplish this.

— ALYSSA BETTS

## New beat for shopping centre

POLICE hope Palmerston will become a tad safer after a new police beat was opened at the city's main shopping centre yesterday.

Shoppers had their lunch break interrupted as dozens of officials and their supporters marched into the Palmerston Shopping Centre to witness the official opening of the new shop.

Speeches were held, a ribbon was cut, the crowd applauded and the ceremony was over.

Police Commissioner John McRoberts said the opening was an important part of Northern

Territory police history.

"Today we see the birth of another police station — another asset for the police but most importantly another asset for the community," he said.

The Palmerston shop comes on top of existing beats in shopping centres across the Northern Territory, including in Nightcliff and Casuarina in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.

NT Chief Minister and Police Minister Paul Henderson said the shops would provide "grass roots community policing" and make Palmerston a safer place.



Natasha Griggs Country Liberals for Solomon

GUESS WHO: CLP candidate Natasha Griggs with a uniformed officer in one of her campaign ads. The officer turned out to be her husband

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**NEW BEAT:** Officer Kelly Barker at the shop front

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'Labor cannot sell Rudd and must hope to instead destroy Abbott'  
**Andrew Bolt**