



Union fears amid silence on safety upgrades to nine police stations attacked in past 10 months

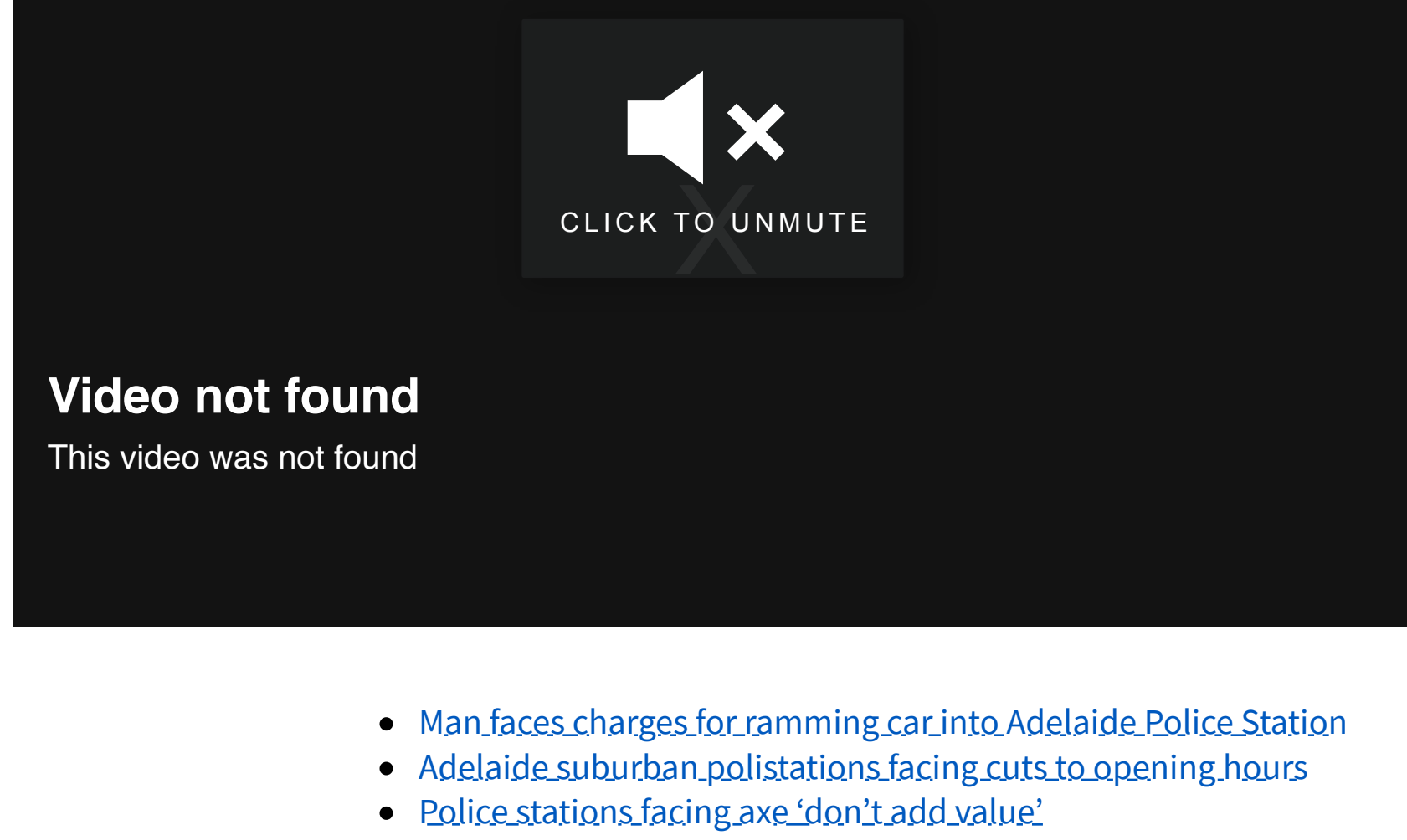
NINE attacks on South Australian police stations in 10 months have sparked union safety concerns, because officers still don't know when promised security upgrades will start.

Meagan Dillon

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The Advertiser

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NINE attacks on South Australian police stations in 10 months have sparked union safety concerns, because officers still don't know when promised security upgrades will start.

Attacks have included cars ramming stations, intruders in restricted areas and a malicious false fire alarm.

SA Police Association president Mark Carroll told *The Advertiser* any breach of security at a police station was a "serious concern".

"All breaches of security carry alarming risks to the safety of employees and members of the public," he said. "The review of security arrangements at police stations being conducted by SA Police has been underway for some time.

"Timely intervention in providing safe places of work for police and members of the public entering police premises is imperative. The association is aware that SA Police intends to upgrade the security arrangements at police stations but we are yet to be advised of the work schedule proposed for the upgrade."

A Kilkenny man allegedly rammed the Adelaide Police Station on Wakefield St in a red Honda on August 4 before an unmarked police car was used to stop him from driving away. Picture: SAPOL

Since November 2015, there have been nine security breaches at police stations across the state, from Adelaide to Victor Harbor and Berri.

In May, there were three incidents alone — [a car was driven through the front doors of the Sturt police station](#), two intruders were found on the first floor of the Grenfell St station and a woman armed with a knife jumped the counter at the Berri station.

The following month there were further breaches, including rocks being thrown through the front windows of police headquarters, Angas St.

Constable Andrew Smith, who is based at the Mt Barker station, told the association's *Police Journal* this month that security was inadequate.

He was working on the night an aggressive man jumped the front counter in March.

"The station front was quiet; there was one other officer in the building on duty," he told the journal.

"While I was typing I heard several heavy footsteps and looked to see a man rolling across the front counter.

"There's nothing to prevent people crossing the counter."

He said there should be panels across front counters at all stations and visible CCTV screens.

Opposition police spokesman Dan van Holst Pellekaan said police officers deserved to be safe at work — just like everyone else. "It is imperative that the Government provides the necessary resources," he said.

"Many people who inappropriately vent their frustration on police are actually frustrated by our justice system, which is under-resourced leading to unacceptable amounts of time dealing with people who've been charged," he said.

SA Police Security and Emergency Management Assistant Commissioner Noel Bamford said the impact of every security breach was "assessed" by the force.

"It would be inappropriate to publicly discuss the specific security arrangements of any police building or facility," he said.

"However a number of additional security treatments are being rolled out as a planned program of works. SA Police is committed to ensuring the safety of its workforce while ensuring visible responsive services continue to be delivered to the community."

BATTLE STATIONS: THE NIBE TARGETS

November 2015

An intruder entered Victor Harbor station after hours by smashing the glass entrance.

The Victor Harbor Police station.

March 2016

An aggressive man jumped Mt Barker station's front counter.

May 2016

A man drove a car through the front doors of Sturt station.

May 2016

Two intruders were found on Grenfell St station's first floor.

May 2016

A woman armed with a knife jumped the counter at Berri.

June 2016

A man threw rocks through the windows of Angas St police HQ.

June 2016

An intruder drove into the car park at the Grenfell St station.

July 2016

A man at Mt Gambier station smashed a window, jumped the counter and damaged a PC.

August 2016

A man drove a car through doors at Wakefield St station and threatened officers with a knife.

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