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BLUE LINE TOO THIN

The Territory Government has again fallen short of the mark with its latest announcement of 60 extra police for the Territory.

“The steep rise in violent crime since Territory Labor came to office is undermining our way of life and only a substantial and sustained increase in police resources will turn the situation around,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“Right now we need at least 100 extra police on the beat in our major urban centres to combat growing lawlessness, yet next year the Chief Minister is offering just 30 extra police officers to cover Darwin City, Casuarina, Palmerston and Alice Springs.

“This is cold comfort with the latest Quarterly Crime and Justice Statistics recording a 37% increase of violent assaults in Darwin and a 21% increase across the Territory as a whole.

“The handful of extra police on offer isn’t going to be sufficient to quell the growing crime rate.

“Too many people have to wait too long for police assistance to arrive because of a shortage on police on the beat.

“Nor is the Chief Minister willing to act on the other side of the law and order equation and provide tougher sentencing options for the courts.

“Our criminal justice system has become a revolving door because of the lenient treatment of too many lawbreakers.

“We need a genuine boot camp for young offenders and the option of hard work on a prison farm for adult offenders.

“People who commit serious crime need to do serious time.

“Given the Chief Minister pinched the ‘Safer Streets’ title from the CLP it’s a shame he didn’t just adopt our law and order policy in its entirety.

“Once again the Labor Government is offering too little, too late in the fight against rising crime rates.”

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