Katherine Goes “Dry” Next Week

The Alcohol Policy Minister Chris Burns has reminded Katherine residents that alcohol restrictions in the town start next week.

Katherine becomes a “dry” town from Monday, 21 January.

“This means drinking in public places within the township boundaries will be prohibited,” Dr Burns said.

“It does not include the BBQ area of the Katherine Low Level Crossing Reserve between 7.30am and 7.30pm or private premises. The BBQ area is subject to review.”

Dr Burns said the Katherine Town Council applied to the Liquor Commission to make the town dry.

“Katherine has suffered from unacceptably high levels of alcohol abuse and anti-social behaviour.

“The disturbing consequence of alcohol abuse is an increase in crime, a rise in assaults and a breakdown of family relationships.

“The Territory Government is committed to breaking this destructive cycle through alcohol restrictions and ensuring those who need help to stop drinking get that help.”

Dr Burns said a liquor supply plan will run in tandem with the dry town restriction. This includes:

- Takeaway sales only between:
  - 2pm and 8pm Weekdays
  - 12 noon and 8pm Saturdays and public holidays
  - 2pm and 8pm Sundays – Hotels only
- No cask wine or fortified wine sales in containers larger than 2 litres
- Cask and fortified wine sales between 2pm and 6pm only
- No purchased takeaway products to be kept on premises within an ‘on licence’ for later collection
- No drive through takeaway sales to taxi/minibus drivers on duty

“I’m very aware of the concerns of Katherine residents about the abuse of alcohol in their town.

“I believe the dry town restrictions and the liquor supply measures combined with initiatives including improved rehabilitation services, return to country policies and sobering up shelters will play an important role in reducing alcohol-related problems in Katherine,” Dr Burns said.

Dr Burns said a brochure explaining the changes and providing an information contact number is being mailed to Katherine residents.

The changes will also be advertised through newspapers, posters, specially designed storyboards, public signs, fact sheets, website information, postcards and community meetings.

Media Contact: Bethaney Jensen 0423 593 999
Media contact Andrea Adlam 0401 119467