National Approach To Bikie Laws High On SCAG Agenda

Attorneys-General from around Australia will meet in Canberra this week to discuss a range of issues including a co-ordinated national effort to combat organised crime.

Northern Territory Attorney-General Delia Lawrie, who flies to Canberra today, said a national approach to deal specifically with illegal bikie gangs is high on the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) meeting agenda.

“The Northern Territory Government has led the way in combating gangs involved in illegal activity through a range of legislative measures,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The illegal activities of bikie gangs interstate are concerning and we need to be part of a national approach to prevent illegal gangs moving to the Territory.

“We have already announced we will introduce legislation later this year to prevent illegal bikie gangs moving here from interstate.

“I will be advocating that similar laws be adopted nationally.

“More than $13 million worth of goods have also been seized through the Criminal Property Forfeiture Act since it was introduced in 2002, to prevent the unjust enrichment of criminals through illegal activity.”

Other items on the SCAG agenda include journalist shield laws – which will protect journalists from contempt of court when refusing to reveal sources - and a national approach to arson and bushfire offences.

“A national approach to arson and bushfire offences is of particular relevance to the Territory and follows the tragic bushfires in Victoria earlier this year,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Top End properties in particular face the very real threat of bushfires every Dry Season and the Territory Government is keen to examine and discuss the proposal to deliver harmonised laws across jurisdictions.”

Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563