Preventing violence and anti-social behaviour in Katherine

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Police will tomorrow begin a six month trial of intensive Temporary Beat Locations outside Katherine takeaway liquor outlets in a bid to reduce alcohol-fuelled violence and anti-social behaviour.

“Temporary Beat Locations or TBLs have proven hugely successful in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek where levels of alcohol-related crime have plummeted since the beginning of the year. Assaults are down 27 per cent in Alice Springs and have been halved in Tennant Creek as a result of our alcohol policies,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“We want to protect the Katherine community in the same way by employing a similar high visibility, preventative approach at the town’s main takeaway grog outlets.

“In the year to October, assaults in Katherine were down 17 per cent and house break-ins dropped 19 per cent compared to the previous year. These are impressive results being delivered by our hard working police but we recognise that anti-social behaviour remains an issue in the centre of town.

“Temporary Beat Locations should help Police tackle the cause of the trouble instead of just dealing with the aftermath.

“They’ve already been used on occasion in Katherine over the year with excellent results but we realise extra officers are needed for the policy to be applied more comprehensively.”

Under Operation Veto, 10 additional officers will be seconded from Darwin on 14 day rotations for the next six months.

From tomorrow they will be stationed outside the town’s main bottleshops with the job of identifying people likely to buy and then consume alcohol in a restricted area.

“The figures from Alice Springs and Tennant Creek show that TBLs work where there are clearly established no-alcohol drinking zones and where the consumption of alcohol in nearby communities is prohibited. So we are optimistic this intensive approach will also deliver similar results in Katherine,” Member for Katherine Willem Westra van Holthe said.
“It’s about preventing the public drunkenness which so often leads to criminal offending. It’s about the protection of women and children in Katherine who are too often the victims of the violence that flows from alcohol abuse.

“This preventative approach is increasingly supported by health advocates across the Territory. Only the Opposition now remains stubbornly opposed to this highly effective tool that’s helped drive assaults down Territory-wide.

“Labor Leader Delia Lawrie is on the record as saying that TBLs are a ‘stupid policy move as far as the Opposition is concerned’. (ABC Radio, 23 April 2014)

“She’s wrong and the statistics prove it. We think protecting women and children from violence is the best use of police resources and we’re giving Katherine Police the tools they need to do just that.”

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