Chief Minister Adam Giles says Labor’s policy to remove police from bottleshops in regional areas of the Northern Territory will increase alcohol-fuelled violence and crime.

Shadow Minister for Alcohol Policy, Natasha Fyles, told Darwin radio this morning that under Labor, temporary beat locations (TBLs) will only operate at times of “heightened activity” such as the football and major events.

“We won’t see highly trained police officers standing for days, weeks, months in front of bottleshops.”
(Natasha Fyles, Mix FM)

Mr Giles said the Country Liberals were proud that TBLs had succeeded in reducing problems with antisocial behaviour.

“Alice Springs used to be the knifing capital of Australia under Labor,” he said.

“Hospital wards were like war zones before we introduced TBLs.

“Medical authorities now report decreased emergency admissions and police acknowledge that TBLs have reduced crime.”

Mr Giles said the Country Liberals recognised that frontline police would prefer to be undertaking duties they were trained for.

“A re-elected Country Liberals Government will employ 105 additional Police Auxiliary officers to enhance community safety, including attendance at bottleshops, with powers to search and arrest,” he said.

“It’s estimated this will see up to 70 frontline officers redirected to other duties.

“The Police Association asked us to find an alternative model and we’ve delivered.

“Labor’s approach is a backward step, which will have awful consequences for families and public safety in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine.”

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