SERIOUS CRIME SURGING IN THE TERRITORY

The Territory Opposition will use Estimates to probe a massive increase in the number of cases the Department of Public Prosecutions will take before the Territory’s Supreme Court next financial year.

This year’s Budget Papers indicate the number of new matters conducted by the DPP before the Supreme Court is estimated to increase from 1060 this year to 1450 next year.

“An almost 40% increase in criminal cases before the Supreme Court shows basic law and order is slipping away in the Territory,” says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the Opposition.

“The Minister for Justice, Syd Stirling, can expect some tough questioning as to why the Martin Government can’t control the crime wave engulfing the Territory.

“Continual complaints to my office show Territorians are worried about the ever growing threat to their personal safety and their property.

“During the past few years there has been a significant rise in crime against the person and crime against property in many parts of the Territory.


“The Magistrates Courts in Alice Springs were swamped by an increase in summary prosecutions from 7954 in 2004/05 to 11,648 in 2005/06.

“It is now obvious that the Martin Government’s strategies for controlling law and order are floundering.

“This Government made much of an initial reduction in the level of crime when it first came to power.

“In fact, the Martin Government was benefiting from earlier measures put in place by the CLP and its own policies are woefully inadequate.

“It’s time the Martin Government faced up to the fact it is losing the battle to maintain law and order.”

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