Areas Made 'Dry'

The Alcohol Policy Minister Chris Burns has welcomed the Licensing Commission's decision to approve the Darwin City Council's application to make parts of Nightcliff, Coconut Grove and Rapid Creek 'dry'.

"I know the decision will be celebrated by many residents in those areas," Dr Burns said.

"In other towns such as Alice Springs and Katherine, the local councils pushed for the whole town to go dry.

"In those locations there have been positive effects. However the Territory Government doesn’t feel there should be a blanket ban over Darwin.

"Alcohol plans should be done on a region by region basis – and Darwin is different from Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek.

"If Darwin were to be declared dry there could be displacement to other areas in the Darwin and Palmerston region without any significant benefit.

"This why Alcohol Courts, short-term accommodation, rehabilitation and return to country programs are so important.

Dr Burns said the package of measures to tackle anti-social behaviour in Darwin and Palmerston announced by the Chief Minister last week also need to be given time to work.

The comprehensive plan includes:

- First Response Patrol
- Dedicated Anti-Social Behaviour Reporting Line
- Darwin Area Night Patrol
- Closed Circuit Television cameras
- Increased Short-Term Accommodation
- Return To Home Program boosted
- New level of co-operation between all Government and non-government agencies

"The Territory Government is confident the significant investment into these initiatives will improve the great quality of life Darwin and Palmerston residents enjoy."