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EARLY ELECTION ON THE WAY

The Country Liberals are predicting the Territory Government will call an early election to avoid further damaging electoral fallout from the rising rates of violent crime in the NT.

“The Chief Minister knows the continual rise in the rate of violent assault during Labor’s seven years in office has become a significant electoral liability and he won’t be willing to risk another year of increasing rates of violent crime,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Country Liberals.

“Rather than facing up to the problem and putting in place policies that will deal with the disturbing rate of violent crime in the Territory, the Chief Minister will rush to an early election in the next couple of months.

“The fact the Chief Minister has stopped saying that Governments should run their full-term and that he has the power to call an election anytime after Tuesday indicates an early election is now coming.

“The Justice Minister’s ham fisted attempt last week to portray the rate of violent crime in Darwin as falling when it jumped by 25 per was a telling pointer of the Government’s weakest link.

“The Chief Minister knows that the policies necessary to rein in the rise of violent crime will be rejected by his party.

“That’s why Labor has watched the rate of violent assault increase by 83% during the seven years it has been in office.

“The number of violent assaults increased from 2,948 in 2001 to 5,390 last year.

“And the situation is deteriorating - in 2007 there was a 24% increase in the rate of violent assault across the Territory. That’s an outrageous average of 15 violent assaults each and every day of the year.

“The Country Liberals will present to the electorate comprehensive plans to deal with violent crime.

“Territory Labor will just go on hoping the problem will solve itself.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594