1 May 2008

RECORD BUDGET FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services will receive a record $247 million in Budget 08 as part of the Government’s ongoing commitment to building safer communities, Chief Minister and Minister for Police Paul Henderson announced today.

“Law and order is a top priority for my Government and I am committed to making sure our emergency personnel have the tools and resources they need,” Mr Henderson said.

“I’d rather live in the Territory than anywhere else – but there is always more to do to make our community safer.

“This year’s record $247 million budget allocation is an 81% increase since 2001 and delivers more police, more patrols and more resources to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.”

Budget 08 supports a range of initiatives including the Safer Streets program to recruit 60 extra police for our suburbs, a major upgrade to police communications and ongoing maintenance and improvements to police equipment.

Mr Henderson said Budget 08 also contains $2.5 million to support the Government’s crack down on youth crime.

“Youth crime is unacceptable and today the Territory Parliament will pass/has passed the Government’s comprehensive package of measures to crack down on young offenders and their parents,” said Mr Henderson.

“The Government has closed the revolving door on juvenile diversion – repeat offenders will have to face their day in court.

“Parents of repeat offenders are being held accountable for the behaviour of their children through Family Responsibility Agreements.

“$2.05 million is allocated in the Budget to support this measure, including the establishment of family responsibility centres to monitor the conditions of the Agreements.

“Budget 08 also delivers $450,000 to support new youth camps to get wayward kids back on track.

“My Government will continue to deliver for Territory families with the resources and funding commitments to build a safer community.”

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