DID HE JUMP OR …?

The sudden retirement of Northern Territory Police Commissioner Paul White raises a number of serious questions about the operations of NTPFES.

Shadow Justice Minister Jodeen Carney says Mr White has presided over a dramatic increase in violent crime, a huge hike in the number of alcohol related offences, a massive increase in protective custodies and a significant decline in police morale.

“Did Paul White jump or was he pushed?” Ms Carney said.

“Less than three years into a five year term and Mr White breaks his contract to return to South Australia.

“The question the Police Minister needs to answer is whether the Government grew sick of Paul White’s failure to crack down on crime and terminated his contract or whether Paul White grew sick of the Government’s policies and half-baked commitment to law and order.

“Announcing this late on a Friday afternoon creates an impression that the Government wants this to be a low-key departure.

“Given Labor’s increasingly in crisis, I guess that’s understandable.”

Ms Carney said despite the serious managerial problems within the force, Northern Territory Police have continued to function at a high level.

“This is in spite of, not because of, the efforts of the Henderson Government and the Commissioner, “Ms Carney said.

“In its search for a new Commissioner, I hope the Henderson Government seriously considers a home-grown officer who’s familiar with local conditions.”

Further comment: Jodeen Carney 0407 187 992