Tough New Bikie Laws Introduced Into Parliament

Tough new laws have been introduced to Territory Parliament today to crackdown on bikie gangs, and prevent the gang related violence seen in southern States.

The Territory Government’s tough on crime package will be boosted by the introduction of the Serious Crime Control Bill into the Parliament.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson said the new laws would restrict and disrupt the activities of persons and organisations such as bikie gangs engaged in serious criminal activity.

“Once an organisation is declared under the new laws and control orders are put in place, it will be an offence for members of that organisation to associate with each other,” Mr Henderson said.

“The Northern Territory Government continues to lead the way in combating gangs involved in illegal activity through a range of legislative measures.

“These new laws will provide Territorians with further protection from bikie gangs and other such organisations - forming part of a national approach to combat organised criminal activity.

“The safety of the community is a top priority of this Government and we don’t want criminal gangs fleeing other states and coming here.

“The Serious Crime Control Bill will provide for declarations being made about organisations, control orders, public safety orders and fortification removal orders with penalties ranging from fines to prison sentences.

“Criminal organisations, their members and associates are serious concerns of the Territory Government and this new Bill contains robust measures to disrupt and restrict the activities of these criminal organisations.

“These reforms complement existing laws brought in by this Government such as the Criminal Property Forfeiture Act which has enabled more than $13 million worth of goods being seized since the law was introduced in 2002.”

Mr Henderson said the new legislation was expected to be passed during the August sittings.

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