The Opposition has supported Government’s Liquor Legislation Amendment Bill despite misgivings about how effective it will prove in curbing alcohol related violence.

The legislation creates designated areas and empowers police to ban people from those areas for a range of criminal and anti-social offences.

“There’s merit in banning violent offenders from licensed venues in the vicinity of where they have committed an offence,” says Matt Conlan, Shadow Minister for Alcohol Policy.

"Unfortunately the Government blocked a raft of Opposition amendments that would have impacted on the demand side of alcohol fuelled problems in the Territory.

“The Henderson Government refuses to tackle the hard core of itinerants that spread alcohol fuelled violence throughout the suburbs of Territory towns.

“We have the 2km laws, declared dry areas, even dry town legislation but these measures are ineffectual in dealing with street alcoholics.

“We need to be putting people who repeatedly turn up in protective custody into alcohol rehabilitation programs.

“We need to understand that these people cannot help themselves alone and will not change without being placed into treatment programs.

“The Country Liberals policy of ordering people who are taken into protective custody 3 times in 6 months into alcohol treatment programs offers these people a chance of beating their alcohol addiction.

“It’s a tough policy and will be expensive but until we deal with this group of people the Territory’s alcohol problems will continue to escalate."

Further comment: Matt Conlan 0408 805 338