Alcohol Management Plan Proposed for Darwin and Palmerston

The Northern Territory Government today released an Alcohol Management Plan (AMP) for Darwin and Palmerston.

The Minister for Alcohol Policy, Delia Lawrie, encouraged residents to have their say on the plan which aims to reduce alcohol related violence and crime in the Top End.

“The Territory Government has introduced 10 Alcohol Management Plans in most regional centres which has seen the supply of pure alcohol drop between 10 to 22 per cent,” Ms Lawrie said.

“However, in Darwin and Palmerston pure alcohol supply has been steadily outstripping population growth each year.

“Evidence shows high levels of alcohol consumption is linked to anti-social behaviour with more than half of all assaults in Darwin and Palmerston last year being alcohol related.

“The Territory Government has worked closely with Darwin City and Palmerston councils to develop an AMP that will reduce alcohol consumption and alcohol fuelled violence and crime.”

The Darwin Palmerston AMP includes:

- Introduction of designated precinct areas in the Darwin and Palmerston CBDs allowing police to issue on-spot-fines and/or ban problem drinkers who cause alcohol-fuelled violence
- Introduction of a Banned Drinker Register in all take away outlets and licensed premises
- Introducing Liquor Accords among licensees in identified locations in Darwin and Palmerston
- Review and extend dry areas
- Banning the sale of 4 and 5 litre casks

Darwin City Council Mayor, Graeme Sawyer, welcomed the new plan which will take a regional approach to stamping out alcohol fuelled violence and crime.

“I encourage everyone to have their say about the proposed reforms and to work with councils and Government to put in place real actions that will address alcohol related harms in our community,” Mr Sawyer said.

Palmerston City Council Mayor, Robert MacLeod, said the plan linked with existing measures designed to reduce alcohol-related harms.
“Addressing alcohol related violence and crime requires a whole of community and government approach and the plan takes into consideration existing actions to reduce alcohol abuse,” Mr MacLeod said.

Ms Lawrie said a community education campaign to inform residents and industry members about the proposed Darwin and Palmerston AMP will soon start and close in November.

“The Government will work with health organisations to develop a plan to improve access to treatment beds and rehabilitation services in the region,” she said.

The proposed Darwin Palmerston Alcohol Management can be viewed at www.safeterritory.nt.gov.au

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