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CLP Must Support Government’s Alcohol Reforms

Minister for Alcohol Policy, Delia Lawrie, once again called on the Country Liberal Party to support the most comprehensive reforms in the Territory’s history to curb alcohol-fuelled violence and crime.

Ms Lawrie said the CLP continued to oppose the Henderson Government’s alcohol reforms, which will turn the tap off to problem drinkers and curb alcohol fuelled violence and anti-social behaviour.

“The CLP’s answer to alcohol fuelled violence is to extend bottle shop trading hours,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Our Government has consistently called on the CLP to stop playing petty politics with anti-social behaviour affecting our community and support our reforms which target problem drinkers.

“Contrary to what the CLP believe, the Government’s policy has always included mandatory rehabilitation treatment.

“The CLP also continue to oppose the Government’s Territory-wide Banned Drinker Register which will turn the tap off to problem drinkers.

“This means the CLP support problem drinkers purchasing as much grog as they like, when and where they like it.

“It also means the CLP support problem drinkers coming into urban centres such as Darwin to purchase grog after they have been banned from buying alcohol in outlying communities.

“Territorians consume alcohol at 1.5 times the national average and alcohol misuse costs our community an estimated $642 million a year.

“Our Government has said enough is enough and is taking some of the toughest actions in Australia to turn the tap off to problem drinkers.

“The Government’s reforms have been broadly welcomed by community groups including the Australian Medical Association, AMSANT, NT Law Society, NT Council of Social Services and the Australian Hotels Association.”

Ms Lawrie said the Territory Government has already introduced new laws giving Police greater powers to ban troublemakers from declared pub precincts.

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