Commit The Crime … Do The Course

John Elferink MLA
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The Henderson Government intends to allow motorists banned for serious drink driving offences to regain their licenses as part of changes to the Territory’s justice system.

Shadow Attorney General, John Elferink, said the changes are part of a softening by the Labor Government of the rules associated with imprisonment and custodial sentencing.

Under the proposed changes, people who would otherwise go to jail for serious drink driving and license disqualification offences will, in every likelihood, be released back into the community under certain conditions.

One of the proposed changes states that a court may give a person a driver’s license, even though a mandatory disqualification period or driver’s license suspension is in place, if that person completes a prescribed driving tuition course.

“What this means is that some of the worst driving offenders in the community will be allowed back on the roads instead of serving a custodial sentence or a long-term licence suspension,” Mr Elferink said.

“Under the Government’s plan, a court may even restore demerit points to a driver who does the course.

“In essence, people who should be jailed will not actually go to jail. Instead, they will be given courses as part of their rehabilitation as well as custody outside of prison, similar to home detention.

“Anybody who claims this is tough on crime is deluded.

“Even the Minister, Gerry McCarthy, admits the changes are designed to reduce prison numbers in the Territory.”

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