KATHERINE IS STILL DRENCHED IN ALCOHOL

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Member for Katherine, Willem Westra van Holthe, says the Government’s arrogant refusal to acknowledge that its grog bans are failing is part of a wider pattern of ignoring the community it is supposed to serve.

“Last week in Katherine, police poured out 269 litres of alcohol in a two day blitz,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“The liquor was a mixture of wine, beer and spirits.

“The seizures and other action taken by police during the two day blitz, serves to highlight two things:

1) That police are working hard to deal with the everyday problems of illegal drinking and anti-social behaviour in Katherine
2) That the Banned Drinker Register isn’t working.

“The Government’s ‘Enough is Enough’ report into its alcohol reforms highlights the policy failure.

“The report spells out that Katherine, with just 5% of the total Territory population, has more than a third of the mandatory Police referrals to the Alcohol and Other Drug Tribunal.

“Why is it that Katherine is so grossly over-represented in these figures?

“Apparently a problem drunk is 10 times more likely to have breached a third Banning Notice in Katherine, compared to anywhere else in the Northern Territory.

“Even though we have the highest percentage of Tribunal referrals, Police continue to seize large quantities of alcohol, something that hasn’t changed in more than a decade of Labor administration.

“The Government should stop punishing the majority for the bad behaviour of
the minority and adopt the Country Liberals' policy of focusing on problem drinkers."

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