MEDIA RELEASE

SAFE STREETS AUDIT

Monday August 13th, 2012

The Country Liberals will conduct an audit of crime across the Northern Territory to identify crime hotspots and immediate priority areas for action.

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, said the Safe Streets Audit will complement the O’Sullivan review into police resourcing and focus on improving safety across the entire Northern Territory.

“The Chief Minister has been totally ineffectual at dealing with rising crime levels in the Territory,” Mr Mills said.

“He can dream up ideas to stage rock concerts – but he has had no idea about tackling serious issues that affect all Territorians like crime.

“Our priority is not throwing parties, but getting people to and from the shops safely.

“Paul Henderson’s only response to rising crime is to stop releasing crime statistics.

“Violent crime in the Territory has doubled since 2004 and, since Labor was elected, overall crime has also doubled.

“This month in Darwin alone there has been a king-hit assault, an arson, stabbing and an alleged taxi-driver assault,” Mr Mills said.

“The Safe Streets Audit will drill into the crime statistics, investigative outcomes and judicial outcomes.
“The Safe Streets Audit will be made up of a chairman to be appointed by the Cabinet, the Northern Territory Attorney General, the Northern Territory Police Minister, the Police Commissioner, a Commonwealth Government representative, community representatives and a data analyst.

“The review will:

• Identify traditional crime hot spots as well as emerging trends in crime
• Scrutinise the Northern Territory Government’s capacity to respond to crime and social order issues
• Review the impact of the Territory’s sentencing regime and its effectiveness on crime
• Advise the O’Sullivan review of the audit outcomes

“The Henderson Labor Government has been powerless to stop soaring crime levels across the Territory, particularly in responding to violent crime.

“A key function of the audit will be to identify how Government can better respond to crime.

“Labor’s response to violence in Alice Springs has been to beef up resourcing after serious crime events. A Country Liberals Government wants a planned response to crime and not knee-jerk reactions based around media reports.

“The Safe Streets Audit will be established in the first week of the election of a Country Liberals Government and report within 100 days.”

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