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**Tiwi Islanders voice their concerns on grog**

Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie’s trip to the Tiwi Islands has confirmed genuine alarm at suggestions of returning full strength grog to communities.

“Many Tiwi people across Bathurst and Melville islands are deeply concerned; health workers do not want to return to the horror days of call outs day and night to stitch people’s heads up,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The strong view on the Tiwi Islands is that the full-strength grog back in communities would be a disaster resulting in violence – especially domestic violence.

“The Tiwi people would rather see the Government immediately commit resources to Alcohol and Other Drug treatment facilities run through a Tiwi culture model.

“People say that if the Government thinks returning full strength grog to communities will entice long grassers from Darwin back to communities then they are mistaken. There are regulations and restrictions on communities that don’t exist in larger urban areas.

“Terry Mills and the CLP said they won’t consider loosening alcohol restrictions until mandatory rehabilitation is in place.

“Well this isn’t good enough. People are already worried about the changes they are facing and they want direct consultation now. The Government needs to explain their plans - particularly how a vote is proposed to occur.

“The CLP are yet to announce any measures to curb or reduce the supply of alcohol or how to tackle the endemic use of marijuana – particularly among children.

“People on communities have been kept in the dark about the Government’s intentions.

“There has been no consultation and they want answers – they deserve answers.”

**Media Contact:** Katie Schneider 0439 543 162