TERRY MILLS
MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

COMMUNITY SAFETY A MINI BUDGET PRIORITY

December 4\textsuperscript{th}, 2012

The Mills Government will increase the 2012-13 Budget for Police, Fire and Emergency Services by $18.59 million.

Police Minister, Terry Mills, said the extra money would be spent on strengthening front line services to keep Territorians safe, including 120 new police on the beat by 2014.

“My Government is serious about getting tough on crime,” Mr Mills said.

“Territorians deserve to feel safe in their homes and in their streets, they want to see more police on the beat and, unlike Labor, we have listened to their calls.

“Today’s Mini Budget will ensure our police force is properly resourced and well managed so that hard working officers can do their job and do it well.”

Measures in today’s Mini Budget to tackle crime include:

- $27.5 million ongoing from 2014-15 to fund 120 additional police on the beat including 20 officers in Alice Springs
- $300,000 in 2012-13 to conduct a safe streets audit
- $2 million in 2012-13 to upgrade Nightcliff Police Station
- $0.5 million to install CCTV cameras in Katherine
- $1.8 million in 2012-13 and $2.78 million ongoing from 2013-14 for additional monitoring support in Katherine and Alice Springs
- $2.5 million in 2012-13 to turn Alice Springs Youth Centre into a PCYC, which will help keep children safe and off the streets

“These measures will put more police on our streets, deter would-be criminals and ultimately help to reduce our appalling crime rates which, under the Labor Government, soared to among the worst in the country,” Mr Mills said.

“We will also improve security on public transport with the function of transport safety to transfer to NT Police.

“This move will strengthen perceptions and confidence in public transport and encourage more Territorians to use our public buses.”

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Mr Mills also said an additional $50 million had been allocated over four years for increased police overtime, housing and information technology costs – all of which were never recognised or accounted for by the previous Labor Government.

As part of whole of Government cost saving efforts to address the Territory’s spiralling debt, savings will total $5.6 million in 2012-13, increasing to $23 million a year from 2015-16 including:

- Civilianising 100 positions, releasing trained police officers back to frontline roles on the beat
- Ceasing of the Blue Light Disco program
- Reducing ground maintenance contractors at the Peter McAulay Centre
- Administrative and operational efficiencies across the agency
- Ceasing First Response Patrol over time as other programs take its services in addressing anti-social behaviour among itinerants
- Decommissioning the Palmerston Fire Station Rescue tender as it has been replaced with a composite fire fighting and rescue appliance
- Transitioning the Humpty Doo Fire Station to volunteer status with current staff to be reassigned to other fire stations

“Residents in the Humpty Doo area will be serviced by the existing Humpty Doo Volunteer Brigade and supported by Palmerston Fire Station and adjacent volunteer brigades,” Mr Mills said.

“To bring the Territory in line with other jurisdictions, firearms fees and charges will also increase from 2013-14, providing $345,000 per annum in increased revenue.

“Current charges for firearms licences and permits have not changed significantly since 1996 and do not reflect the cost of providing this service.”

From July 1st, a 5-year category A and B firearm licence will rise from $35 to $105, a 3-year category C firearm licence will rise from $35 to $105, a club junior licence will rise from $24 to $52.50, a 3 month firearm purchase permit will increase from $17 to $52.50 and registration fees for each firearm will increase from $6 to $10.50.

The hourly charge out rate for police officers, for example for escorts, official guard duties, false alarm call outs, will also increase to average state levels.

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