CLP’S ALCOHOL LAWS DROWNING IN FLAWS

Opposition Leader Delia Lawrie today said that initial feedback from stakeholders and the legal community on the CLP’s alcohol legislation introduced into parliament last week has revealed it’s deeply flawed.

“The CLP have said $45 million will be spent next year providing treatment to 480 drunks of which 48 will be rehabilitated. At more than $900,000 per rehabilitation, not only is the CLP plan the most expensive revolving door ever constructed, it’s also riddled with legal uncertainties,” Ms Lawrie said.

“Surprisingly, the legislation doesn’t get rid of the Banned Drinker Register. The legal provisions for the ID scanner system remains in their legislation.*

“Adam Giles has to answer the question – is it incompetence or dishonesty? The CLP know the BDR worked, but politically they won’t admit it. I suspect it’s no mistake to leave the ID scanning in the legislation, the CLP are trying to work out how to bring back the Banned Drinker Register by stealth.

“Why else would you keep the legal provisions of the ID scanner system in place if you didn’t intend to bring it back?

“The CLP announced their new laws would include Alcohol Protection Orders where people are banned from buying alcohol but the bans would not be enforced. The problem is this provision is completely missing from their legislation. Why?

“These proposed laws make it illegal to sell alcohol to people who are banned but not identified which creates an absolute nightmare for retail outlets. Liquor outlets are asking how can they possibly know who they are not legally allowed to sell alcohol to?”

Chief Minister Adam Giles is addressing the annual Australian Hotels Association dinner tonight.

“Adam Giles must outline tonight how AHA members and their staff are supposed to avoid committing offences if they sell alcohol to people who are banned but not identified,” Ms Lawrie said.

“We now have front line police speaking out about unrestricted supply. The piece meal approach in Borroloola is what happens when you dismantle a system that was working. It’s a direct result of the shambolic CLP alcohol laws. The CLP’s own member, Larisa Lee says she doesn’t support it. Does Bess Price support this train wreck of a policy?”

Contact: Gino Luglietti 0401 119 794

* see 31A of the Liquor Act. Clause 157 repeals certain elements but not the elements of a BDR which remain in s31A