The Northern Territory Government will introduce electronic monitoring technology to locate and track an offender's movements and keep crime down in our community.

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink said a monitoring device can be placed on an offender and quickly alert agencies when the person is in an unauthorised location.

“This technology allows us to track an offender's movements 24 hours a day, without the need for costly routine check-ups by Police and Correctional Services staff,” Mr Elferink said.

“Electronic monitoring also has the ability to significantly reduce imprisonment costs, by getting offenders out of prison beds and back into the community under constant surveillance.

“Tracking technology could cost as little as $45 per person per day, compared to more than $200 to keep an offender in a Northern Territory prison.

“Prisoners requiring additional surveillance may no longer be confined to a prison cell and instead work and contribute to the community.

“This will enable more prisoners to begin employment or volunteer work and participate in the Country Liberals Government’s Sentenced to a Job program.

“Sentenced to a Job puts offenders into workplaces where the skills they learn can be used for long term employment; reducing the likelihood of them returning to prison.

“Ultimately, I would like to close down prison beds and have prisoners working and being productive members of society.

“This is a positive tool that can be used to crack down on law and order and create a safer place for Territorians,” Mr Elferink said.

Electronic monitoring will be implemented by the Department of Correctional Services (NTDCS) and Police Fire and Emergency Services (PFES).

The Northern Territory Government is monitoring the success of the technology in other jurisdictions including South Australia and New South Wales, who use it to monitor offenders on backend release orders and bail.

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