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CASUARINA NEEDS DEDICATED POLICE OPERATION

Shadow Minister for Police Michael Gunner today called on the CLP Government to provide a dedicated police operation to improve safety in the Casuarina precinct in the lead up to the Christmas and the start of the Wet season.

The Casuarina precinct was recently the site of a beating and robbery in the car park on 28 October which led to the death of a man and three teenagers subsequently charged for murder.

“A Police Operation in the Casuarina precinct is needed to improve safety and to target anti-social behaviour,” Mr Gunner said.

“Improving safety in the area is important in the lead up to Christmas, the busiest time of the year for retailers, which coincides with the start of the Wet season a time when we know anti-social behaviour problems become seasonally worse.

“With crime a problem in the CBD the Government launched Operation Omaha – why don’t they launch a similar operation for Casuarina?

Mr Gunner said the CLP promised to cut crime by 10 percent a year every year but instead violent crime is increasing - violent crime in Darwin has risen 15 percent since the Banned Drinkers Register (BDR) was scrapped. In the latest June quarter there were 445 assaults compared with 386 in the June quarter last year, before the BDR was scrapped.

“The Casuarina precinct is a popular area and deserves attention by the CLP Government and by Police,” Mr Gunner said.

“It is a big area with thousands of people visiting daily to go to the post office, banks, library, bus depot, shops, fast food outlets, Centrelink and more.

“In Government Labor put in place an internal police beat, built a new nearby Police station, increased police patrols and had the effective Banned Drinkers Register.

“However the CLP scrapped the BDR and refuse to listen to the experts and continue to ignore tackling the supply of alcohol to problem drunks.

“The Operation would send a strong message and reinforce safety in the busiest retail period leading up to Christmas. It is time for the CLP Government to act.”

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