ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

DRIVING DOWN CRIME IN PALMERSTON WITH CCTV

16 March 2014

The Giles Government is delivering safer streets for Palmerston residents with the installation of new CCTV cameras at the Palmerston Bus Interchange.

“These 32 cameras are state of the art and provide Police with an invaluable tool for preventing and combatting crime,” Attorney General John Elferink said.

“The upgrade is part of a $250,000 project to upgrade ageing CCTV infrastructure at transport hubs in the greater Darwin and Palmerston area.

“Unlike Delia Lawrie’s failed Labor Government, we are tackling crime head-on by giving Police the legal tools and equipment they need to drive down offending.

“The existing cameras are more eight years old and work has now begun to replace them.

“The new system will be directly monitored by the CCTV Unit at the Peter McAulay Centre in Berrimah. Live monitoring allows CCTV operators to conduct virtual patrols of key hot spots, ensuring a faster response to incidents by Police.

“The new cameras will provide better quality images with more comprehensive coverage of the area and greater storage capability. Some will also have audio recording capacity.”

The Territory has a network of 175 CCTV cameras and Police are reporting huge success in using them to prevent, detect and investigate criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

Last year, the CCTV Unit monitored and archived 2444 incidents including almost 400 in Palmerston.

“CCTV vision was recently used to identify and find the alleged perpetrator of an attempted sexual assault in Palmerston. Police have also been able to crack-down on hooning in Palmerston CBD carparks by using the local CCTV network,” Mr Elferink said.

Country Liberals candidate for Blain Nathan Barrett welcomed the investment in safer transport for Palmerston.

“These new cameras should give Palmerston residents peace of mind that the Giles Government takes law and order seriously,” Mr Barrett said.

“Under the Country Liberals, the Territory has seen property crime figures drop to their lowest level since current records began. House break-ins have dropped by 44% and commercial break-ins are down 36%.”

Media Contact: Danielle Parry 0413 081 801