Chief Minister

DRIVING DOWN CRIME BY TARGETING ALCOHOL HOT SPOTS

27 March 2014

Temporary Police Beat Locations outside bottleshops in Katherine and Alice Springs are delivering immediate results in driving down alcohol-fuelled crime.

"Under the Country Liberals, Police are tackling problem drinkers and alcohol hot-spots head on," Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

"Stationing officers outside bottleshops is a new approach being used by Police to target problem drinkers who buy takeaway grog with the intent of consuming it in restricted areas.

"At the end of February, NT Police launched Operation Leyland enforcing a full ‘lock-down’ at every takeaway outlet in Alice Springs.

"A Temporary Beat Location has been set up outside every Alice Springs takeaway outlet for every hour of trade, seven days a week for the duration of the operation, checking where people intend to drink their alcohol.

"The results so far have been impressive. During the operation’s first two weeks, Police reported a 24% reduction in incidents compared to the same period last year. They also reported a 54% reduction in assaults.

"It’s more evidence that targeting specific hotspots and problem individuals gets results. By contrast, Labor inconvenienced everyone, with blanket rules which didn’t work.

"Since we came to Government wholesale alcohol supply in Alice Springs is down 7% to the lowest figure on record. This approach will assist in bringing that figure down further."

In Katherine, Temporary Beat Locations began on Thursday and Friday of last week at five takeaway outlets.

"The results are very encouraging with 239 litres of alcohol seized and destroyed, two people taken into Protective Custody, four people nabbed for breaching Alcohol Protection Orders, two arrests for breach of bail, four arrested on outstanding warrants and four charged with drink driving," Mr Giles said.

"Wholesale alcohol supply in Katherine is already down 7% and this approach will drive supply down further.

"Unlike Delia Lawrie’s failed Labor Government, the Country Liberals take law and order seriously. We have a plan and our policies are delivering, driving crime down and cutting alcohol consumption."

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