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Crime continues to drop across the Northern Territory with the latest crime statistics showing total property offences, house break-ins, theft, and property damage at their lowest levels in 14 years, when the current data set began.

Attorney-General John Elferink said tough law and order initiatives have resulted in a 17 per cent drop or 3458 fewer property-related offences in the 12 months to February 2014 compared to the same period last year.

“During the same period, commercial break-ins and motor vehicle theft also plummeted by 19 and 16 per cent, the lowest seen since 2005 and 2007 respectively,” Mr Elferink said.

“The Country Liberals Government is tackling crime head-on by targeting repeat property offenders and holding them to account for their actions.

“Police have been given the tools they need to prevent, detect and investigate crime and have been focusing on targeting recidivist property offenders through specialised operations.

“Sadly, the number of domestic violence assault offences has risen steadily since the introduction of mandatory reporting in 2009, while non-domestic violence assaults remain largely unchanged.

“Since coming to Government, the Country Liberals have applied a zero-tolerance, pro-prosecution approach to domestic violence that has resulted in an increase in cases appearing in the crime statistics.

“Instead of dealing with these cases through civil orders which don’t appear in the crime figures, we’re putting the full force of the law behind every case and being transparent about the true scale of this problem.

In 2013, there were 93% more domestic violence assaults cleared by arrest, summons or warrant than in 2011, proving police are not afraid to go after these types of offenders.

“Last year, the Northern Territory Government announced it would work to address the high rates of domestic violence in the community with a comprehensive domestic and family violence reduction strategy. This is close to being finalised and should be ready for implementation in the coming months.

“The Giles Government will not stand by and allow vulnerable people in our community to be victims of domestic violence.

“Increased domestic violence reports suggest people are now more confident about reporting the crime, however there is a still a large proportion who still do not contact police.
“Less than half of all victims of domestic violence report their abuse to police, meaning there’s no penalty for offenders.

“The proactive approach being taken by police in responding to reports of domestic violence should encourage more victims to speak out and seek assistance.”

Mr Elferink said the Northern Territory Government will continue to implement measures to tackle alcohol-related abuse in the community.

“We are taking a multi layered approach to turning off the grog tap with Alcohol Protection Orders, Alcohol Mandatory Treatment and Temporary Beat Locations, and as a result we are now seeing encouraging changes,” Mr Elferink said.

“Since the introduction of APOs in December 2013, there are early signs the Orders are having an effect with non-domestic violence assaults down three per cent in the year to February 2014 compared to the same period last year.

“More than 1000 people are now subject to an Alcohol Protection Order which restricts their access to licensed premises and takeaway grog.

“This Government is tough on law and order and will continue to drive down crime and alcohol consumption which is now at its lowest level since records began.”

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