Protecting the Community with Electronic Monitoring of Offenders

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An international company which delivers electronic monitoring for offenders has been chosen as the successful provider to introduce technology to monitor and track criminals in the Northern Territory.

The chosen provider, G4S, has also been contracted by the South Australian, Victorian and New Zealand Governments to monitor offenders.

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink said the Northern Territory Government will roll out the crime fighting tool over coming months.

“Offenders on court-ordered restrictions and prisoners at the Barkly Work Camp are the first to be identified to use the technology,” Mr Elferink said.

“The technology allows us to track and monitor an offender’s movements 24 hours a day with regular signals sent back to a monitored control room base with G4S.

“Additionally, this will allow us to remove suitable offenders from the prison system and place them back into the community under constant surveillance.

“The implementation of the technology can allow members of the public to have greater confidence that a close eye is being kept on offenders in the community, whether they are working, volunteering or are on parole.

“Electronic monitoring is also a significantly more cost effective option than imprisonment and will ultimately result in savings to the taxpayer.

“This has the potential to create long term savings with tracking technology costing as little as $45 per day compared to nearly $200 to keep a person in prison.”

The electronic monitoring will be secured onto the offender’s ankle and send an immediate response signal should there be any attempts to remove the technology or if an offender is in breach or any curfew or in the vicinity of “no go” areas.

Mr Elferink said this crime fighting tool will be used to crack down on law and order and create a safer community for Territorians.
“Electronic monitoring is part of the Northern Territory Government’s plan to deliver a stronger justice system for Territorians through the Pillars for Justice strategy,” he said.

The Country Liberals Government has allocated $1 million in Budget 2014 for the rollout of electronic monitoring across the Northern Territory.

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