Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

John Elferink
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

**Paperless arrests keep Police on the beat**

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The Territory Government is creating a new system of ‘paperless arrests’ that cuts the administrative burden on officers and gets troublemakers off the streets faster.

“The Country Liberals are serious about driving down crime across the Territory and we are committed to giving Police the tools they need to keep the community safe,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“Under our proposed amendments to the Police Administration Act, new ‘paperless arrests’ would allow Police to immediately remove people who are causing a public nuisance before the situation escalates into more serious offending.”

Currently, a person who may be causing a public nuisance can be issued with an infringement notice but then left in the same area where they may continue to engage in disorderly behaviour.

“This new option, allows for the same person to be held in custody for four hours before they are issued with an infringement, are charged or released on bail,” Mr Giles said.

If a person is drunk when taken into custody, they can be held until Police believe they are no longer intoxicated.

“The main advantages of this system are that it gets troublemakers off the street quickly and allows Police to delay dealing with their paperwork until later in their shift, keeping them on the streets when they’re needed most,” Mr Giles said.

“We want our Police out on the beat, protecting the community, not stuck in the station filling out paperwork.”

Earlier this year, the Government flagged that it was investigating the introduction of ‘paperless arrests’ as part of the highly successful DarwinSafe initiative.
“In Mitchell Street, serious assaults resulting in injury have dropped by 24 per cent since DarwinSafe and the government’s new Alcohol Protection Orders were both introduced at the start of the year,” Mr Giles said.

Paperless arrests are another example of the Government’s efforts to modernise our Police Force and make the system more efficient so that officers can concentrate on driving down crime. Other measures include the use of iPads and number plate recognition technology.

Attorney-General John Elferink said 'paperless arrests' are a part of the Territory Government’s ‘Pillars of Justice’ law and order reform strategy, a comprehensive policing, justice and corrections package.

“The Giles Government is proud to drive the 'Pillars of Justice' strategy to create a more effective and efficient law and order system in the Northern Territory,” Mr Elferink said.

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