WHAT IS THE PERMANENT SOLUTION TO TERRITORY GROG WOES?

Shadow Minister for Alcohol Policy, Natasha Fyles, said the CLP Government needs to acknowledge the need for a balanced and permanent solution to the Territory’s alcohol problems.

“The CLP Government is touting the success of their resource intensive Temporary Beat Locations (TBL’S) in the Territory’s regional centres yet at the same time there is a wave of crime and antisocial behaviour through Darwin and Palmerston,” Ms Fyles said.

“Adding insult to injury up to 10 police offices from Darwin have been relocated to Katherine to resource the TBL’s, leaving Darwin and Palmerston under-resourced to tackle this crime wave.

“Darwin and Palmerston residents are feeling the effects of alcohol related incidents and antisocial behaviour every day.

“The Territory needs a permanent, balanced and holistic alcohol policy that caters for all of the Territory and doesn’t deprive one area for the sake of another.”

Ms Fyles said TBL’s are, as their name suggests, temporary as well as being intensive and expensive – and take police away from their intended duties of policing.

“TBL’s can’t last forever – they are not a long term solution and are not the job that police officers sign up to do; they don’t want to spend their days being a bouncer at a bottleshop,” Ms Fyles said.

“When will the CLP put in place cost effective, fair and sensible measures to stop problem drinkers accessing alcohol at the point of sale?

“Clearly the Banned Drinker’s Register fits this bill and needs to be brought back.”

Media contact: Cathryn Tilmouth 0427 500 667