MEDIA RELEASE
Michael Gunner
SHADOW MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE
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IMMEDIATE ACTION ON BUS SAFETY NEEDED

Shadow Minister for Police, Michael Gunner, has called on the Government to immediately provide a police strategy and urgently implement the findings of the bus interchange safety audit before another innocent passenger or bus driver is seriously injured.

“It’s been eleven days since Labor revealed the CLP Government was sitting on this report,” Mr Gunner said.

“We know about the 14 year old girl attacked last week, however indications are other incidents have occurred, including advice a driver was also assaulted the same night.

“It’s inconceivable that the Government has this safety report and is failing to act on its findings. How many more people have to be assaulted before the CLP Government does something?

“The CLP Government scrapped the Casuarina Square police beat - which patrolled the Casuarina bus depot - and have failed to deliver on their promise of an increase of 120 police offices. Both of these decisions put the safety of Territorians at risk.

“The community rightly expects the Government to increase police foot patrols and the security presence at the bus interchanges following the litany of violent incidents. Instead, eight months on, we are still waiting for a Government response.”

Mr Gunner was joined at the Casuarina bus interchange by Labor’s candidate for the Casuarina by-election, Lauren Moss, who raised serious concerns about whether the images from new CCTV cameras would be able to be viewed by the Police.

“I understand the cameras are being upgraded from analogue to digital, but that the necessary IT infrastructure for to allow Police to view the footage is not yet in place,” Ms Moss said.

“When will the new cameras be operational and when will the Police have access to the footage?”
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“And, will the Government be acting on a recommendation to increase the number of security cameras, which would have made sense to do as part of the technology upgrade.

“It would seem that the Government has failed to recognise the need for additional cameras and included that in the upgrade, which would have saved time and money.”

Mr Gunner said it was symptomatic of the chaos and confusion within the CLP Government that a technology upgrade of this nature had been botched.

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