Media Release

John Elferink
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Labor road-blocks war on ice

16 September 2015

Today the Labor Party prevented Territory Police from obtaining new powers that are urgently needed to help fight the distribution and manufacture of methamphetamines in the Northern Territory.

“Labor played politics in Parliament today to prevent the introduction of legislation that would have given Northern Territory Police powers to interrupt the flow of methamphetamines into the Territory from other jurisdictions,” Attorney General John Elferink said.

“Rather than demonstrate community leadership in our Parliament, the Opposition has, by its actions, condemned more families to the suffering that this drug causes.”

The Government asked the Labor Party to provide support for the Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill 2015 to be introduced on urgency.

The proposed Bill would allow police to declare certain areas as ‘declared drug detection areas’ where police could conduct random searches of vehicles for drugs.

Had Labor supported the urgency motion, the Bill could have been passed this Sittings.

“This drug is a menace on society,” Mr Elferink said, “it destroys families, as well as the users.

“The incidence of ice being brought into the Northern Territory has increased alarmingly and we have to do something sooner rather than later.

“It is extremely disappointing that the Opposition has decided to oppose the urgency motion.”

Labor’s actions in refusing to understand the urgency involved means the Bill will have to be debated in the November Sittings.

“Labor has now denied our police force the tools they need for a minimum 60 days,” Mr Elferink said.

“Sixty days that could ease the suffering for many Territory families and potentially prevent the introduction of others to the drug, ice.”

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