Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Country Liberals invest in Tennant Creek

7 July 2016

The Country Liberals Government today announced a $484,000 agreement with Barkly Regional Council to bolster youth services in Tennant Creek.

The funding supports council to run the Barkly Youth Centre Program, which provides structured and spontaneous activities to promote positive behaviour.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said a successful trial showed the program deserved ongoing support.

“The Government is committed to diversion activities that engage young people and prevent them from getting involved in antisocial behaviour,” Mr Giles said.

“It includes an end-of-night drop-off service, which gives youth workers a chance to build connections with young people and their families to understand issues and obtain feedback.

“The Government recognises that youth crime is a major problem in Tennant Creek.

“We want to keep kids off the streets, preferably through diversion programs, but we’re not afraid to take a hard-line approach with repeat offenders in particular, if that’s what is required.”

The Youth Centre will be open Tuesday to Saturday, 5pm to 9pm, including school holidays, with scope to change according to seasonal activities.

Mr Giles said the Labor Party’s opposition to bail amendment changes in Parliament showed that Gerry McCarthy is soft on crime.

“We all want young people to have a chance in life, but if they muck up more than once they should accept the consequences,” Mr Giles said.

“The Government believes there should be electronic monitoring if repeat property crime offenders are released on bail.

“Labor says it’s okay for kids to keep committing crimes indefinitely.”

Visiting Tennant Creek for a Cabinet meeting and to attend the Tennant Creek Show, Mr Giles said a re-elected Country Liberals Government would commit more than $6 million to develop an integrated early childhood centre in Tennant Creek.
He said the Government’s 2016-17 Budget had invested in Tennant Creek infrastructure and services including:

- $7 million to continue strengthening six bridges on the Tablelands Highway;
- $6 million over two years for upgrades to Sandover Highway;
- $4.81 million to provide a 50-bed low-security prisoner work camp in Tennant Creek to contribute to providing real life skills and experience for prisoners;
- $1 million to extend the open speed section on the Stuart Highway from north of the Ali Curung turn-off towards Tennant Creek;
- $100,000 for the Jubilee Park Association for facility upgrades to support the Tennant Creek Show;
- $95,000 to the Battery Hill Mining Centre for visitor information services.

Country Liberals candidate for Barkly, Tony Jack, welcomed the Government’s support.

“It’s great to see the building works happening in Tennant Creek and nearby communities,” Mr Jack said.

“I’m especially pleased with the Government’s commitment to Aboriginal employment, which has seen many local people assisted into meaningful jobs.”

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