Community safety strengthened – a new era in policing

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A re-elected Country Liberals Government will strengthen community safety by investing $14 million per year to establish a new Community Policing Strategy with 105 extra auxiliary officers.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said the additional personnel would join a new combined force under Police command with existing Auxiliary members, Public Housing Safety Officers and Transit Safety Officers.

“Under our plan, fully trained and equipped frontline officers can be redirected to duties more suited to their experience and expertise, reducing both the incidence of crime and the fear of crime,” he said.

“It’s estimated the community policing model will see up to 70 frontline officers redirected to other duties.”

Mr Giles said under the new model, temporary beat locations would continue indefinitely, utilising the new Auxiliary force with Police powers to search and arrest.

“People in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine will be pleased to know the Government has listened to them and made this long-term commitment to ensure safety and security,” he said.

“Labor will get rid of police on the beat at bottleshops.”

Currently, Police Auxiliaries perform roles in Police watch houses, front counters, call taking and dispatch.

The new Auxiliaries will all be sworn officers with Police powers specific to the stream they are joining.

The three streams will be Community Safety, Custody and Community Service, with key responsibilities including:

- **Custody Officers:** Will undertake watch house, court duties (excluding Darwin courts), and prisoner transport (road and air);
- **Community Service Officers:** Will undertake front counter and call taking / dispatch duties; and
- **Community Safety Officers:** Will undertake highly visible community engagement in high-use public places (eg shopping centres, malls, public spaces), temporary beat locations, public housing safety and transit officer duties.

Mr Giles said the Auxiliaries would have a consistent uniform and appearance to existing officers, providing greater
“They will have consistent training, higher standards of professionalism, and be supported by the resources of the Northern Territory Police Force,” he said.

“Being part of a larger agency specialising in public safety and security will provide a better career structure for Auxiliaries, leading to higher retention rates, and attract higher-calibre recruits.

“This model will also create more career options for auxiliaries, including clear pathways between streams and towards becoming a sworn police officer.”

Mr Giles said the Country Liberals are committed to ensuring community safety through a suite of tools, including bail amendment legislation to electronically monitor repeat property crime offenders.

“In 2012, after more than a decade of Labor government, crime had spiralled out of control,” he said.

“Labor has always been, and always will be, soft on crime and unable to make the hard decisions that will make Territorians feel safe in their homes and communities.

“Only the Country Liberals can be trusted to properly equip Police with the people and resources they need to keep our communities and streets safe.”

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