Katherine's lifestyle under threat

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Revelations today that Labor, if elected, will scrap Temporary Beat Locations has outraged the Katherine community.

Labor Shadow Attorney-General, Lynne Walker, was quoted in the NT News as saying that Labor had committed to repealing Temporary Beat Locations.

The article largely focussed on calls by lawyers associations and academics to push for sweeping reform of the law and order system in the hope of undoing many so called “tough on crime” initiatives the Country Liberals.

Ms Walker said that Labor would unravel both paperless arrests and the Temporary Beat Locations.

“Katherine will lose police presence at bottle shops under Labor”, said Member for Katherine, Willem Westra van Holthe.

“TBLs are the only policy, ever, to make a substantial difference to the streets of Katherine.”

Figures from the Department of Justice speak for themselves.

Under the Country Liberals, crime in Katherine is down 24% compared to levels under the last Labor Government.

Alcohol related assaults are now down 40% compared to when Labor was in Government. Property offences are down 17% and house break-ins are down 15%.

Mr Westra van Holthe said having lived in Katherine for 14 years, served in the Police Force for 21 years, he had seen the best and worst of government policies.”

“Nothing in my time has ever made such a difference to the social fabric of our town than Police going at bottle shops policing who is buying grog.”

“You can now walk down the main street without stepping over drunks; you can go the main shopping centre carpark and not be abused or witness to alcohol-fuelled mayhem”, Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“Assaults are down, domestic violence is down; that means more women and children are safe at night, as a result of having police on bottle shops.”

“This clearly shows just how much the Labor Party is out of touch with the folk who call Katherine home.”

Police on bottle shops, formerly called TBLs and now called POSIs (point of sale interventions) were introduced by
the Country Liberals Government in Katherine in December 2014.

“I’m proud to be a part of a team that is tough on crime and has committed to TBLs through the announcement of an additional 105 Community Police Officers.

“Katherine will lose under Labor”, Mr Westra van Holthe said.