MEDIA RELEASE

Outrageous decision to shut Cop Shop

10th January 2017

“It beggars belief that the Chief Minister would shut the Alice Springs Police Station front counter 12 hours every day, reducing access to the Police Station by 50%. It is particularly concerning that this reduction of Police services would occur during summer, traditionally the peak season for crime and anti-social behaviour in Alice Spring” said Robyn Lambley the Independent Member for Araluen.

“The Chief Minister needs to front the people of Alice Springs and explain his rationale for this irresponsible, outrageous decision.”

“The Chief Minister has stumbled his way through the first 5 months of office with no policy or plan for fighting crime in Alice Springs. Shutting the Police Station for 12 out of 24 hours indicates a complete lack of understanding of just how serious our law and order problem is. Reducing Police services will only exacerbate the problem” said Mrs Lambley.

“Alice Springs has arguably the highest rate of Domestic Violence in the country and unacceptably high rates of other assaults and property crime. Now is not the time to be reducing Police Services. People need to know that they can go to the Police Station at any time of the day and night for safety and assistance.”

“I call on the Chief Minister to take a leadership role on fighting crime in Alice Springs. If this is about cost cutting, then I suggest he looks elsewhere. In 2016 the Gunner Government took $27m of Infrastructure projects away from Central Australia and “reprioritised” it to Top End projects. Now we see a reduction in our Alice Springs Police services. This is not a good start to the year for Centralians looking to the new Government for hope and reassurance.”

Robyn Lambley MLA
Independent Member for Araluen

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