Michael Gunner
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

**New Technology to Fight Property Crime**

2 February 2017

Territory police will today begin trialling explosive tyre deflation devices – the latest innovative technology aimed at making the Territory a safer place.

Chief Minister Michael Gunner said the trial is one of several fast-tracked initiatives designed to improve public safety and security for all Territorians following a recent spike in property crime.

“Every Territorian has the right to feel safe and expect their homes, businesses and property to be secure – we know people are concerned about a recent spike in crime and we have listened and taken action,” Mr Gunner said.

“Safety is a concern for everyone when property crime is involved, and tools such as the explosive tyre deflation devices will assist our officers to safely deflate the tyres of a stolen vehicle and capture offenders.

“Police have a tough job to do – and do it well - and the Territory Labor Government is determined that they will have the tools they need.”

A review of NT Police pursuit policy over the past six months has included the introduction of tyre deflation devices, including ‘stop sticks’ that TRG are trained to use and ‘Nighthawks’ which have been selected because of enhanced safety features.

“NT Police have taken delivery of two Nighthawks and 30 officers are to be trained in their deployment. The devices will initially be rolled out in Darwin during a trial period,” Mr Gunner said.

“NT Police are early adopters of cutting edge technology - such as Body Worn Video and Facial Recognition systems – and today is another chapter in that approach. They are among global leaders in the area of innovative technological solutions that best serve the community.”

Mr Gunner joined Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw earlier this week to announce an additional 18 officers focused on youth crime.

“We are taking immediate action and we are tackling the causes of crime and social dysfunction through a plan to combat alcohol abuse and investing in the early years and appropriate rehabilitation strategies,” Mr Gunner said.
“We need to break the cycle of crime that we have seen for far too long if we are to see real improvement.”

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