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30% increase in unregistered cars – further sign of Territorians doing it tough

More and more cash strapped Territorians are finding the rising costs of registering their cars beyond them and are opting to run the risk of driving unregistered, CLP Shadow Police Minister Denis Burke said today.

Mr Burke said the fact the Christmas holiday road safety campaign had caught 115 unregistered cars in less than five weeks – more than 20 a week – reinforced the strain rising car registration costs have placed on household budgets.

“It is a reflection of the continued patchy state of our economy and how hard some people are doing it,” Mr Burke said. “ABS figures, out only 2 days ago, show that Territory families are continuing to spend less on the essentials in life and this is further evidence of it.

“The latest Police annual report reinforces it is a trend that has been going on for the past 18 months and coincides with 3 Government increases in car registration costs.

“The Police annual report reveals that there has been almost a 30 percent increase in the number of people caught not registering their cars.

“In 2002-03 there were 2122 people caught with unregistered cars. Last year this increased to 2667 – an extra 455 people. This is not about more police on the road this is about people’s disposal income and more people not being able to afford to register their cars.

“The average Territory family is around $200 worse off because of the Martin Government’s 3 increases in car registration costs since coming to office. It has gone up 18% and the Government has foreshadowed a further 7% increase this year. I suspect this is why more and more people are not registering their cars.”

Mr Burke said this week’s ABS figures showing retail trade in the Territory failing to come out of a three month decline, coupled with Australia’s highest unemployment rate and the continuing exodus of wage earning families from the Territory reinforced many Territorians will continuing to do it tough financially.

“The Government should be easing the financial burden on Territory families not increasing them,” Mr Burke said.
“This Government is forever digging into the pockets of cash strapped families - significantly by increasing the cost of car registrations.”