PRESIDENT OF POLICE ASSOCIATION SHOULD NOT SHOOT THE MESSENGER IN SUPPORTING THE LABOR GOVERNMENT.

Shadow Minister for Police Fire and Emergency Services Denis Burke said today that Police Association President Vince Kelly does himself or his members no good by leaping to the Martin Government’s defence. This occurred in response to claims Mr. Burke made that the Martin Labor Government is falling far short of its claims to be defeating crime in the Northern Territory.

“Vince Kelly simply demonstrates he is a captive of the Martin Labor Government when he leaps to their defence when issues are raised that the public has a right to know, Mr. Burke said.

“The 2005 Report on Government Services clearly shows that crime rate trends in the Northern Territory are alarmingly high. In particular are those figures that relate to victims of crime including Assault and Sexual Assault

“The Public Survey contained in the Report for 2003-4 shows that when Territorians were asked what they considered was a “Major Problem” or “Somewhat of a Problem”, over 60% of Territorians surveyed nominated Physical Assault, Family Violence and Housebreaking. These were the highest indicators in Australia (p5.37).

“Less people in the Northern Territory “felt safe or very safe” walking or jogging locally after dark than in any State or Territory in Australia (p5.34).

“To suggest that this is a criticism of police is nonsense. I want answers as to why the Martin Labor Government is allowing our lifestyle to be eroded. We all want to support our police but let’s not waste vital resources on Government self-promotion.”

Mr. Burke said if Vince Kelly is confident Police are getting the resources they need from Government he should ask the Minister or Treasurer if the Police Budget has blown out.

“My information is that it has overspent by up to $15M already. “Mr. Burke said.

ENDS