HOW THIN IS THE BLUE LINE?

A breakdown of Police numbers in remote indigenous communities should be publicly released, says the Territory Opposition.

“The Minister for Police, Chris Burns, will be providing the figures to the Federal Police and should also make them publicly available,” says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the Opposition.

“This is the perfect opportunity to set the benchmark for policing in remote communities.

“With the additional Federal Police Officers being deployed in remote communities, we should get a good idea of how many police are required to maintain order within those communities.

“To hold future Governments to account, we need to know exactly how many sworn officers and ACPO’s are on the ground in remote communities right now.

“The existing Police numbers in each of the communities that the Federal Government will be taking responsibility for should be made available, along with how many Federal Officers will be working in each of the communities.

“The Police Minister should also commit to providing additional Police for Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine in case the Federal intervention results in a movement of people from remote communities into the Territory’s regional centres.

“The crack down on grog in remote communities could spark a migration into regional towns; bringing even more social problems onto the streets of Alice, Tennant, Katherine, and even Darwin.

“In the first instance, it is the regional centres that are likely to face the most pressure from increased levels of internal migration and the Martin Government has a poor record in responding to the policing needs in those towns.

“Now is the appropriate time for the people of Alice, Tennant and Katherine to be assured that they will not be burdened by ever increasing law and order problems.

“The responsibility for ensuring that lies with the Martin Government.”

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