Local Government Minister Elliot McAdam today gave an update of the work undertaken by the Alice Springs Town Camps Taskforce, which was established late last year to examine and assess social conditions relating to town camps in Alice Springs.

Mr McAdam told Parliament that since its inception in December, the Taskforce had consulted widely with a wide range of stakeholders and had sought public submissions from the wider community.

“The Taskforce is charged with assessing the current state of town camps in Alice Springs and identifying the key issues of concern to town camp residents, service delivery agencies and the wider Alice Springs community,” Mr McAdam said.

“The consultations by the Taskforce have shown that while there are legitimate concerns in the community about pressures from visitors and problems associated with litter, anti-social behaviour and alcohol abuse, there are many misconceptions surrounding the causes of these issues.

“This has contributed to misunderstanding and has also led to outrageous assertions by Member of Greatorex that the Government is somehow forcing thousands of people into Alice Springs – an absurd allegation.

“These misconceptions need to be re-examined if we are to find consensus on how to respond to the challenging issues facing Alice Springs at the moment and into the future.”

Mr McAdam said the Chair of the Taskforce, Olga Havnan, will next week host a public information session to give the wider Alice Springs community an opportunity to hear about the Taskforce and its work.

“So far consultations and submissions received reveal the principal issue of concern to all stakeholders is that of alcohol abuse,” Mr McAdam said.

“The work currently being undertaken by the Taskforce – which comprises representatives from Government and local community organisations – has begun to identify some short and longer term proposals for addressing several issues impacting on the town as a whole.

“A report will be provided by the Taskforce on this work by the end of April.”

The public information seminar will be held on Thursday April 6 at the Alice Springs Town Council offices at 5.30pm.

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