JODEEN CARNEY
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
MEDIA RELEASE

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MARTIN STUMBLES AT THE FIRST HURDLE

The Chief Minister, Clare Martin, has again failed to recognise the depth of feeling in Alice Springs about the breakdown of law and order in the town.

Confronted with hundreds of protesters before the opening of Parliament in Alice, the Chief Minister fell back on her well worn rhetoric that the Government understands their concerns.

"If the Chief Minister truly understood the feelings of the people of Alice Springs she would have told the protestors how many extra police she is willing to allocate to Alice right now," says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the Opposition.

"Instead, we heard the usual empty words about the Government providing 'extra resources as needed' and putting in place long term strategies to deal with the concerns of the people of Alice.

"Such waffle was never going to wash with the protestors and the Chief Minister was predictably and roundly howled down.

"The high level of random street violence in Alice has generated levels of fear and frustration that I have never seen in all my years of living in the town.

"For many residents walking the streets after dark has become a memory.

"Until the Chief Minister's Government puts forward concrete proposals to reduce the spiralling violence in Alice, her Government will have little support from the people of Alice.

"Again I'll state the starting point for dealing with the problem - get more police on the beat."

To arrange further comment: Greg Charter 0400 14 059