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Carney Prepares Dry Area Legislation for Public Comment

As a result of the Alice in 5 public meeting recently, the Leader of the Opposition, Jodeen Carney, is preparing a legislative package for public comment that is aimed at allowing for the introduction of Dry Areas Legislation in the Territory.

“In spite of the Government’s ludicrous claims that there has been a fall of 47 percent of reported drunks in Alice Springs the mood of the ‘Alice in 5’ meeting held in Alice Springs left no doubt in my mind that the problem is getting worse.

“The Alice Springs Town Council has called for dry areas legislation.

“I believe that the Council needs to be supported and that there is room for a stronger package that must be driven from the Territory level that will not only empower the Council in Alice Springs but will also empower any other council to declare a dry area if they want to.

“The effect of the declaration of a Dry Area on public drunkenness in Port Augusta has been noticeable. The Territory has a form of Dry Area Legislation encompassed in the 2 km law but this law has a weak enforcement structure built into it as the only penalty is the loss of the liquor the person is drinking at the time.

“The legislation that I will prepare over the next few weeks will be forwarded to stakeholders and interested parties for their comments.

“I want to hear from Territorians what they think of the package before I introduce a Bill before the Assembly. Alcohol is still the most controversial drug in our community and it is certain that more than any other drug it affects the smooth operation of our community.

“It is safe to say that liquor needs to be regulated, the question will always be to what degree?

“By putting the package out for public comment we hope to strike the best balance between the rights of people to live in a free community and the need for the community to be safe from the problems associated with drunkenness.”

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