Dr Chris Burns
MINISTER FOR RACING, GAMING & LICENSING

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NT Government Flags Alcohol Reform in Katherine

The Territory Government will work with licencees to implement an electronic ID system to buy alcohol in Katherine, the Licensing Minister Chris Burns announced today.

“In contrast with the Federal Government’s proposal, we want something that is effective and causes minimal inconvenience to the public and licencees,” he said.

“The electronic ID system is one of a range of initiatives to tackle alcohol, crime and anti-social behaviour in the town.

“The plan is part of the Territory Government’s strategy to curb excessive drinking on a region-by-region basis. We don’t believe a one-size-fits-all approach is right for the Territory.

“Public places in Alice Springs have already been made ‘dry’. Later this month the Territory Government will introduce amendments to Parliament banning alcohol in Alice Springs town camps.

“Police will also be given additional powers to randomly search vehicles to combat grog running on Aboriginal land.

“With those efforts in motion, it’s now time to turn our focus to Katherine.”

Dr Burns said the other new measures included:

• Setting up an Alcohol Court in Katherine with powers to hand down intervention and prohibition orders and/or treatment for alcohol dependency

• Funding for an Indigenous liaison officer to provide intervention and referrals in domestic violence cases

• Additional funding for Return to Country programs and support services for itinerants

Dr Burns said the Territory Government is also in positive negotiations with the Federal
Government to provide a sobering up shelter and improved rehabilitation places for Katherine.

He said the initiatives also included a liquor supply plan formulated through public and industry input.

The plan will focus on the issues of availability, type and quantity of alcohol to be sold.

The implementation of the initiatives in Katherine will be phased in with community consultation over three months.

Dr Burns said the new measures would complement Katherine Town Council’s application to make public places in Katherine “dry”.

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Moving the Territory Ahead