QUESTIONING LAW AND ORDER BREAKDOWN

The deepening law and order problems plaguing Darwin’s northern suburbs will come under intense scrutiny during this week’s parliamentary sittings.

“The rampage by a group of youth’s through the suburb of Wanguri is just the latest in a long line of violent criminal acts that are threatening the peace and good order of Darwin,” says Jodeen Carney, Leader of the Opposition.

“What is the Chief Minister, who is also Police Minister, going to do about restoring law and order to our suburbs?”

When Clare Martin appointed herself Minister for Police she said it was “to place an even greater focus on cracking down on crime and anti-social behaviour.

“Tackling law and order issues is our top priority – even tougher laws and tougher enforcement will make our streets even safer,” Ms Martin said.

“Two months since taking on the most important job in the Territory and the Chief Minister has had nothing to say about law and order problems in Darwin.

“All the Chief Minister has done is release her Government’s absurdly belated response to the Anderson/Wilde Report and criticise the Federal Government’s intervention into the remote indigenous communities

“When last week’s official figures showed yet another increase in the level of violent assault in Darwin and Palmerston, the Chief Minister was silent.

There were 476 recorded assault offences in Darwin in the current quarter, an increase of 88% (223) from the same quarter the previous year. During the same period there were 101 recorded assault offences in Palmerston, an increase of 124% (56) from the same quarter the previous year.

“Now the northern suburbs are engulfed in another weekend of mayhem and the Chief Minister remains mute and inert.

“The Martin Government is losing the battle against violent crime in the Territory and the Chief Minister has nothing to offer.”

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