Extra police for footy game

Katie Weiss

ABOUT 61 police will be on duty at Traeger Park to ensure there is no trouble at tonight’s football match between Richmond and the AFL All-Stars.

There will also be extra police patrolling the town today and over the weekend with remote-based police and night-patrol officers boosting the local force.

Police say there have already been more disturbances and cases of intoxication and domestic violence in Alice Springs in the lead-up to the AFL All-Stars game.

Watch Commander Darrell Kerr said about 50 people had been held in the watch house in one night this week but so far there had been no reports of extreme violence in town.

He said one man was arrested and charged for breaking into Foodland in Northside at about 1.30am on Wednesday.

Town council rangers and local security guards would also be working tonight.

Traffic police will conduct random breath tests tonight and officers will be stationed outside liquor outlets which have restricted opening hours of 2pm-7pm today and 10am-6pm tomorrow.

There are limits on alcohol sales with individuals allowed one full-strength beer can/carton per day, one ready-to-drink pre-mixed can/carton per day, and one 700ml bottle of spirits per day. Sales of fortified cask wine are banned.

In the run-up to the game the NT Government has been contacting clubs across the country to plan their trip home before coming to town.

People from communities stretching as far as the Piljani-tjarta Lands in South Australia and the northern part of Central Australia were expected in Alice.

Mr Grundy, the Northern Territory Executive Director of the Australian Federal Police, said the Plan Ahead campaign was a huge success and their accommodation before the flight.

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Tiger set to pounce back to Alice

Sally Brooks

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The suspension hit local businesses and residents hard with Tiger set to pounce back to Alice Springs to get home, says Ms McNamara’s husband is the service’s principal legal officer. Acting Chief Justice Dean Mildren and Justices Judith Kelly and Jenny Blokland, who had not reached a decision on publication.

The Court of Appeal urged visitors to plan their trip home before coming to town. They are more in line with the higher prices of the larger cities of the south. We’re about fifth,” Mr Gerritsen said.

“The problem in Alice has always been the shortage of land because of native title”.

Legal ban appeal

Corey Sinclair

ALICE Springs may be one of the most expensive towns in the world to live in, says an expert economist.

The Economist Intelligence Unit’s World Cost of Living report ranked Sydney and Melbourne in the top five most expensive cities in the world.

But Charles Darwin University economist Rolf Gerritsen says Alice Springs is much more expensive.

“Our petrol is more expensive than Sydney and Melbourne and it’s not explained by transport costs. I think it has more to do with the said scale and lack of competition,” he said.

According to the Australian Institute of Petroleum’s Orima Research, Alice Springs petrol was the world’s second highest.

“Petrol in Alice Springs is much more expensive than in other major cities,” he said.

The announcement by the NT Government and Alice Springs residents will make a big difference to the price of petrol, Mr Gerritsen said.

The price of petrol in Alice Springs is $1.50, compared to $1.25 in Melbourne and $1.15 in Sydney. The price of petrol in Alice Springs is the highest in the world, Mr Gerritsen said.

But this year travel will be much easier on the hip pocket, with the airline to run four return flights weekly between Melbourne and Sydney from April 9.

The announcement by Tiger followed months of negotiating involving the NT Government and Alice Springs Airport.

NT Tourism Minister Matt Grantham, co-owner of Annie’s Place backpackers, says the resumption will make a big difference to tourism.

“We are extremely excited. I think we should have an excellent tourist season this year because of it,” she said.

Tess Reinsch, who found herself stranded in Melbourne in July 2011 when the airline was grounded, said: “Tiger, I forgive you.”

Ms Reinsch, who had to fly to Tulara then catch a bus to Alice Springs to get home, says she will save thousands of dollars on visiting family and friends in Melbourne.

Resident Emily Webster says friends who weren’t able to visit her due to flight prices are now considering coming.

Travel World’s Dunja Ganama said the presence of Tiger would influence visitors’ flight prices.

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NT Tourism Minister Matt Conlon said the government would be focusing on marketing campaigns to make sure the new seats on offer get taken.

“If we don’t, they won’t stick around (just) because they think Alice Springs is a great place,” he said.

The service will create 5000 jobs and allow one full-strength beer carton per day, one ready-to-drink pre-mixed can/carton per day, and one 700ml bottle of spirits per day. Sales of fortified cask wine are banned.

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