LABOR’S POLICY ON THE RUN – DRY AREA INITIATIVE ALREADY EXISTS

After four years in government, Labor have finally discovered that the Territory has an anti-social behaviour and itinerant problem.

The announcement by Labor this morning is quite extraordinary. The new Dry Area initiative is just another admission that the existing law has not been enforced.

There is currently a law prohibiting the drinking of alcohol within 2km of licensed premises, with the exception of certain exempt areas. An example of this area is the Esplanade in Darwin.

However, Raintree Park in Darwin is not exempt but this is a hot-bed of anti-social behaviour and public drunkenness. Other parks and areas around shopping centres are also prime spots for itinerants to hang out.

So why are the police not enforcing this 2km law? It is because Labor are not telling the police to enforce it. They are soft on Labor. Their weakness has caused the itinerant and anti-social behaviour problem to get out of control.

For four years, Labor have strongly denied that there was an anti-social problem. The Country Liberal Party seriously doubts the Labor governments’ commitment to tough law and order policies based on their past actions.

Labor’s policies will not solve major problems like youth gangs, begging, humbugging, urinating in the street or harassing locals or tourists.

What Labor should have done is to listen to the Country Liberal Party’s no-nonsense approach to tackling anti-social behaviour, itinerants and drunks – a tough Zero-Tolerance policy that is driven from the top down.