



**LIA FINOCCHIARO  
DEPUTY OPPOSITION LEADER**

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**Crime wave means more bad news for business**

The latest spate of crime across the top end is further bad news for businesses and organisations already doing it tough in the current economic climate.

Over the long weekend at least 12 local businesses and organisations in the Palmerston area were broken in to, causing what is expected to be thousands of dollars' damage.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Lia Finocchiaro said Territorians are tired of being the victims of crime and sick of the lack of consequences for offenders.

"Territory owned businesses are the backbone of our community, and business owners are sick of cleaning up the mess and footing the bill for break-ins, including lost trade time.

"The Biz Secure grant process is a welcome assistance for eligible businesses, but does not go far enough to assist businesses that are feeling the brunt of a worsening crime epidemic.

"For example, a business that operates as a not-for-profit association or out of a home is not eligible to apply for any financial assistance through Biz Secure, despite being a registered business and contributing to the Territory community and economy.

"I call on the Labor government to act swiftly to help all businesses, including not-for-profits and home businesses, who are victims of crime and start providing real consequences for offenders.

"The latest crime statistics (year end to 28 February 2018) show an increase in commercial break ins of 55 per cent in Katherine and 29 per cent in Palmerston, it is no wonder Territory business owners have had enough," said Ms Finocchiaro.

**ENDS**

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