



LIA FINOCCHIARO
DEPUTY OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate circulation

Crime time in the Northern Territory

Property and vehicle damage occurring across the Territory this week, including 39 vehicles damaged in Alice Springs overnight and a spate of crime reported across the greater Darwin area reinforces the law and order crisis facing Territorians, underpinned by continuing alcohol related violence and a lack of action by the Territory government.

The latest crime statistics (year to 31 March 2018), released this afternoon, show a significant increase of 28.3 per cent of commercial break-ins in Palmerston, 77.9 per cent increase in Katherine and 65.8 per cent in Tennant Creek. Nhulunbuy residents have had to contend with triple figure increases in house break-ins (209.1 per cent increase), commercial break-ins, up 227.3 per cent and a 115.4 per cent increase in property damage.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Lia Finocchiaro renewed her earlier calls for consequences for offenders involved in the most recent spate of house and business break-ins and vehicle damage.

“Territorians are tired of being the victims of crime, and footing the bill.

“The Opposition continues its call for expanded use of electronic monitoring bracelets for repeat offenders as per the legislation brought in on urgency last year under Labor.

“When questioned in parliament this month, Labor revealed just eight (8) bracelets had been fitted in the past year. When used correctly, electronic monitoring can reduce re-offending by up to 50 per cent.

“I’d also like to see solutions that involve parents and carers of the perpetrators required to front court when youth offenders continually break the law.

“The government needs to develop alternative sentences so that offenders are not able to simply walk free, but should require them to attend training programs, help fix the damage they have caused or require them to perform community service, such as cleaning up rubbish on the streets. There has to be real and meaningful consequences to actions.

“These latest statistics reinforce that the Banned Drinker Register (BDR) continues to fail as a standalone tool, as alcohol related assault figures increased across all six (6) geographical regions for which crime stats are reported and 19 per cent Territory wide.

“The fact is, despite the best work of the Territory’s dedicated police force, the Territory is facing a crime epidemic and Labor policy is failing to keep Territorians, and their property safe,” said Ms Finocchiaro.

ENDS

Media contact: Georgina Murphy 0432 679 567