



LIA FINOCCHIARO
DEPUTY OPPOSITION LEADER

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For immediate release

Pinelands not prison land

Pinelands is a heavy industrial area where Territorians are working hard, giving it a go, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is an entirely unsuitable location for youth rehabilitation or chronic alcoholics.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Lia Finocchiaro said that the bully boy tactics employed by the Minister at last night's community meeting reinforced the arrogant disregard that Labor has for business, community safety and crime.

"Labor is hellbent on building its new detention facility and alcohol rehabilitation centre to the detriment of existing, successful and long-term Territory businesses.

"There was no consultation whatsoever prior to the site announcement and after last night's meeting it is pretty clear that the government still doesn't want to listen.

"Building a gaol and alcohol treatment complex at Pinelands will force business closures, lower property values and prohibit the expansion of existing and future businesses.

"The Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics completely failed to mention that there would be constant coming and going of chronic alcoholics from the alcohol treatment facility.

"Pinelands is no place for pedestrians - how will the government ensure their safety and the safety of current road users and business operators?

"Local businesses and residents have raised genuine safety and business logistics concerns with me which the government just doesn't want to hear.

"Concerns include a potential for increase in crime, interference with road train operations, disturbance to the existing 24 hour business operations within the precinct (which will inevitably force curfews to operating hours) and the industrial nature of operations within the area, which include blasting, crushing, spraying, heavy vehicles and industrial noise.

"Labor failed to properly consult on this site and yesterday failed to acknowledge the genuine concerns of business operators.

"Informing a handful of businesses that in two hours time there would be announcement about a site is arrogant and out of touch.

“This site saga only further reinforces Territorian’s concerns about community safety, crime, corrections and alcohol policy as Labor continues to fail to address these issues.

“The Opposition believes there are better alternative locations including at Holtze,” said Ms Finocchiaro.

ENDS

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