Government to tackle Alice Springs challenges at Parliament Sittings

The Territory Government will use the Parliament Sittings in Alice Springs to introduce and debate legislation which will tackle the challenges facing people who live in Central Australia.

Leader of Government Business, Dr Chris Burns, said the Government will introduce the toughest alcohol reforms in the country, which have been designed to turn off the tap on problem drinkers in Alice Springs and across the Territory.

“We’re calling on someone in the Opposition to finally show some leadership and get the CLP to support alcohol reforms which will reduce crime and antisocial behaviour in Alice Springs,” said Dr Burns.

“While Tony Abbott and the CLP Opposition want another intervention the Government will be calling on them to get behind the Government’s plans to ban problem drinkers.

“The CLP Opposition want to pour more grog on to the streets of Alice Springs by selling alcohol for 4 extra hours everyday. Their plan is opposed by police, ambulance drivers and doctors because they know it will increase violence, anti-social behaviour and break ins in Alice Springs.

"The Territory Government will also be outlining its reasons behind our opposition to the establishment of a Uranium mine within 20 kilometres of Alice Springs.

"We listened to the concerns of the Alice Springs community and as a united Government respected the strong local opposition to the Angela Pamela Uranium mine“.

“The Government will be calling on the divided Opposition to clarify their confused, conflicted and ever changing position.

“This especially applies to the member for Greatorex, Matt Conlon, who has deliberately misled the people of Alice Springs by claiming to oppose the mine while at the same time working with the company to promote it.”

Other legislation to be introduced, which will address the challenges facing Alice Springs, includes amendments to the Education Act which will increase the penalties for parents who don’t enrol their children in school or ensure they attend.

“We want every child at school every day and this legislation will help get kids off the streets and into classrooms so they can get an education and have more opportunities in life.
The Territory Government is also debating further reforms to protect Territory children by strengthening the Care and Protection of Children Act.

“We know there are challenges facing the people of Alice Springs,” said Dr Burns.

“That is why we are using this Parliament sittings to get to work and pass legislation that will help to tackle the problems.

“The CLP Opposition needs to stop their bickering and get behind these reforms instead of supporting more meaningless stunts.”

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