

COUNTRY LIBERALS	
	MEDIA RELEASE
	DECEPTIVE AND WRONG
	Matt Conlan MLA
	Date 9th September 2010
	<p>The Chief Minister Paul Henderson has resorted to outright deceptions to justify the differences between alcohol restrictions in Darwin and Alice Springs.</p> <p>When asked on ABC radio this morning whether his Government would ban alcohol sales before 2pm in Darwin as well as Alice Springs, the Chief Minister peddled the ridiculous line it wouldn't because:</p> <p>'Well I think Darwin is a bit different in as much as we are a capital city and a capital city that caters for thousands of tourists, not hundreds of tourists.' (ABC Darwin breakfast program)</p> <p>In effect the Chief Minister was claiming the tourism industry in Alice Springs is of limited importance to the local economy.</p> <p>Fact 1 – 386,000 tourists visited Alice Springs in 2009.</p> <p>Fact 2 – Tourism is worth \$300 million to the Alice Springs economy each year.</p> <p>Fact 3 - In 2009 visitors in Alice Springs spent \$1225 per visit compared to \$1149 in Darwin.</p> <p>Fact 4 – Many tourists are annoyed to discover they can't buy takeaway alcohol before 2pm and business is lost as a consequence of those restrictions.</p> <p>Fact 5 – Paul Henderson will never impose the Alice Springs restrictions in Darwin because he fears a political backlash in Darwin.</p> <p>'The Chief Minister's comments have again demonstrated just how far out of touch he is with life south of the Berrimah line,' says Matt Conlan, Shadow Minister for Central Australia.</p> <p>'Tourism is a critical component of Alice's economy and this arrogant Chief Minister is happy to play with the facts for base political reasons.</p> <p>'The Chief Minister should commit to requiring equal treatment between Darwin and Alice Springs.</p> <p>'The people of Alice Springs are sick and tired of being treated as if we aren't part of the Northern Territory.</p> <p>'Territory Labor has a long history of treating Alice as the poor cousin of Darwin and its time this destructive attitude ended.'</p> <p>Further comment: Matt Conlan 0408 805 338</p>