Willem Westra van Holthe  
Shadow Minister for Local Government  
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IT’S CALLED THE TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

The Country Liberals have labelled the Henderson Government’s offer of $50,000 to close problem laneways in Darwin as a welcome, albeit belated, recognition of rampant anti-social behaviour plaguing parts of the northern suburbs of Darwin.

“Where the announcement fails is that is confined to the Darwin City Council, says Willem Westra van Holthe, Shadow Minister for Local Government.

“What is needed is a comprehensive co-operative policy that deals with a range of anti-social behaviour in a number of towns in the Territory.

“What we got was a calculated, cut-price commitment to deal with one problem area.

“At the last Territory election the Country Liberals promised a $3.1 million package to enable the Territory Government and each local council to collaboratively tackle anti-social behaviour in their town.

“The fund was designed to enable councils to clean up graffiti, control night access to problem laneways and improve lighting in response to residents’ concerns.

“10 months late the Henderson Government has finally admitted it too must bear responsibility for the growing problems with anti-social behaviour, but only in Darwin.

“Residents of Palmerston, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs must be wondering why their problems with anti-social behaviour, including laneways, aren’t worthy of the Chief Minister’s attention.
“I’m also wondering if the Chief Minister is planning to formalise the Government’s relationship with the Territory other city councils.

“Confining the ‘special relationship’ to Darwin City Council smacks once again of the Berrimah line.

“The Chief Minister should be going to each of the councils to sign a charter of collaborative government.”

Further comment: Willem Westra van Holthe 0414 778 430