



Media Release

Peter Chandler, Member for Brennan
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Call for Federal funds to improve not duplicate

29 January 2015

Police Minister Peter Chandler is calling on the Federal Government to reconsider its plan to fund the construction of more police stations around the Territory, saying the money would be better spent elsewhere.

Minister Chandler says the funding should be used to improve run down, make-shift stations that remain as a legacy of the 2007 Northern Territory Emergency Response.

“We have some police living and working in old shipping containers. It’s not appropriate accommodation for a contemporary police force to operate effectively,” Minister Chandler said.

“These men and women put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe; they deserve much better than the substandard conditions they’re currently living with.

“The Commonwealth set aside funding for new police stations as part of a Council of Australian Governments commitment to policing in regional areas. I’m asking them to rethink that decision and put the money where it’s needed most,” Minister Chandler said.

It comes after Minister Chandler visited remote communities in the Top End to see first-hand the infrastructure and police resource pressures under the current Stronger Futures Agreement.

“When the intervention swept through the Territory, 18 temporary police stations were set-up to provide greater accessibility for remote residents to policing services,” Mr Chandler said.

“To access Federal funding, Northern Territory police are required to physically have staff at these stations for 90% of the time, regardless of whether there are community safety issues or not.

“What we’re seeing now is Police resources being underutilised in some areas, while others are experiencing major pressure points.

“I’d like to see a delivery model that allows for our valuable police resources to be directed to those locations and districts that have a greater demand,” Minister Chandler said.

The Country Liberals Government welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Commonwealth Government to provide the best outcome for Territorians.

Media Contact:

Jarrad Schwark 0437 914 736 or 8928 6617