



DAVID TOLLNER MLA | **Member for FONG LIM**
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW POWERS FOR POLICE TO CRACK DOWN ON BOOZE CRIMES

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The Northern Territory Government will introduce tough new alcohol protection orders to reduce crime across the Territory.

The orders will be introduced under the Liquor Act and will support the Government's target of a 10 per cent reduction in crime and further strengthen the tools available to NT Police in responding to alcohol-related offences, including domestic violence.

Minister for Business David Tollner said the new protection orders would build on the Government's mandatory treatment plan to target problem drinkers.

"The Territory Government is serious about addressing the problems faced by problem drinkers across the Territory," Mr Tollner said.

"This provides NT Police with extra powers and a law enforcement tool to deal with offenders of alcohol related crime, to reduce the amount of crime and the consequential impact on victims."

An Alcohol Protection Order will prevent a person from possessing or consuming alcohol or attending licensed premises, other than for work or for place of residence.

It can be issued to any person who is charged with an offence carrying a minimum penalty of six months imprisonment or more, where alcohol was a factor (including offences under the Traffic Act). These orders can be issued for three, six or 12 months – three months for the first offence, six months for a second offence and 12 months for a third or subsequent offence.

"This is a significant improvement on Delia Lawrie's former government's Banned Drinker Register," Mr Tollner said.

"The BDR was not a law enforcement tool used by police; it was a tool to restrict alcohol at the point of sale for people who'd been taken into protective custody three times or more in 6 months.

"The Alcohol Protection Orders are purely a law enforcement tool and will be issued by police with detection and enforcement of breaches through policing activities."

More than half of NT Police responses to "Offences Against the Person" each month are alcohol-related or domestic-violence related.

Approximately 70 per cent of domestic violence order breaches responded to are alcohol-related. In the 12 months in the lead up to March 31 2013, there were 22,041 alcohol-related incidents across the Territory. In 2011-12, NT Police breath-tested 168,134 drivers – 5.1 per cent were detected for drink driving offences.

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