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ATTORNEY GENERAL

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TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND PUTTING MORE POLICE ON THE BEAT

The Martin Government is backing Territorians by providing safer communities, Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne and Minister for Police Paul Henderson announced today.

Budget 2005 delivers a record Police, Fire and Emergency Services budget of \$189 million – an increase of 38% since 2001.

“We are focused on preventing crime, getting tough on those who commit crime, and tackling anti-social behaviour,” Mr Henderson said.

“Funding has been targeted at building the police force and getting more police on the beat.”

Mr Toyne said: “To further support communities, the Office of Crime Prevention has been allocated \$3.5 million to continue leading crime prevention strategies throughout the Territory.”

TACKLING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Martin Government is ensuring police have enough resources and support to address crime and anti-social behaviour with:

- An extra 120 police on the streets with more on the way, leading to more pro-active policing
- The full strength of the police force is at 1000 for the first time
- A new Drug Detection Dog Unit has been established
- Mobile Police Stations to target hot spots in Darwin and Alice Springs
- Personal and Domestic Violence Protection Units being established in all major Territory centres
- A Police register of convicted child sex offenders
- 25 additional police vehicles for Aboriginal Community Police Officers over three years, better supporting them to address violence and anti-social behaviour across the Territory
- Government, community organisations and businesses cooperating on a ‘hot spot’ management program
- Stronger police presence at public events, such as football finals and concerts
- \$1.5 million to the Police Call Centre, freeing up Police Officers to spend more time on the beat
- \$2 million in ongoing funding to upgrade equipment used by police every day

SUPPORTING SAFER COMMUNITIES – CRIME PREVENTION GRANTS

Budget 2005 increases funding for Crime Prevention Grants to \$750,000 – from \$400,000 in Budget 2004.

Of the \$750,000:

- \$400,000 will be provided for crime prevention grants
- \$350,000 for the approved Community Safety Plans of the seven Regional Crime Prevention Committees and three Indigenous Crime Prevention Committees across the Territory.

Neighbourhood Watch will receive its annual allocation of \$110,000, as well as receiving administrative and police personnel support in all centres.

BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

Budget 2005 includes further spending on infrastructure to make communities safer including:

- \$3.6 million for a new fire station at Marrara servicing Darwin's northern suburbs
- \$230,000 to strengthen firefighting and emergency response capability at Yulara with Voyages Group
- \$210,000 for an NT Emergency Services presence at Kings Canyon
- \$1 million for improvements to Darwin Correctional Centre, as well as continuing the \$8 million project to build a low security facility at Darwin Correctional Centre
- \$150,000 to improve security at Alice Springs Court House

“Budget 2005 continues our strong focus on getting more police on the beat, providing them with more resources and providing better support for fighting crime,” Mr Henderson said.

“Our continuing investments in crime prevention are also backing Territorians by providing safer communities,” Dr Toyne said.

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