

Leader of the Opposition
LIA FINOCCHIARO MLA

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Country Liberal Government to implement multi-pronged approach to ensure a strong Territory police force

A Country Liberal Party Government will introduce a six pronged approach to strengthening the Northern Territory's police force to tackle crime and make our communities safer. This approach will ensure police are equipped to do their job, right across the Territory, Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said today.

The six pronged strategy includes:

- **Making police a top priority, guaranteeing the police portfolio will be held by the Chief Minister** – This ensures that the concerns of police and public safety are always at the forefront of government decision making.
- **Delivering continuous police recruiting** – Under a CLP Government, rolling police recruitment will be the norm and sufficient funding will be provided to ensure that multiple recruit squads can run at the same time. Priority will be given to backfilling vacant positions, in major centres and the bush, as well as meeting attrition rates and keeping the police college appropriately skilled and resourced.
- **Rolling back youth justice changes** – The CLP will reverse the watering down of penalties for youth offenders and institute a system where each offence has a consequence including escalating consequences for youth offenders.
- **Increasing penalties for the assault and abuse of police officers** – There is an average of 230 assaults on police each year, which is totally unacceptable. The CLP will send a clear message to people who assault or abuse police by introducing stronger and more certain consequences for those who assault or abuse police.
- **Focusing on remote policing** – The CLP will work with the Federal Government for additional resources to ensure remote police stations are manned as necessary and ensure that housing and staffing meet contemporary requirements.
- **Supporting our own** – The CLP will provide greater opportunities for promotion for Territory trained police officers in order to reward the commitment and local knowledge gained through hard work and dedication.

“Police keep our communities safe and under a CLP Government police will be a priority,” Mrs Finocchiaro said.

“We will move quickly and swiftly to ensure that the job of policing is safe, efficient and rewarding,” Mrs Finocchiaro concluded.

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