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GIVING RESIDENTS A DIRECT SAY ON POLICING IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS

Residents will have a direct say on how their suburbs are policed under a re-elected ACT Labor Government, Police and Emergency Services Minister Simon Corbell announced today.

"A re-elected ACT Labor Government will establish Suburban Policing Consultative Committees giving residents the opportunity to have a direct say on policing activities in their own neighbourhoods," Mr Corbell said.

"This is an innovative approach for any Australian jurisdiction and draws on the use of such committees in places such as the United Kingdom." Mr Corbell said.

The announcement is part of the ACT Government's policing and community safety package launched today.

Mr Corbell said a 12-month trial would occur in two areas of Canberra, one on the north side and one on the south side with each area comprised of a number of suburbs. The ACT Government would provide \$300,000 in funding for the trial.

The consultative committees would consist of police officers and local residents working together to identify policing priorities for their area.

"These could be issues such as speeding on certain streets or criminal damage," Mr Corbell said.

"Once the areas of concern are identified police in the suburban policing strategy team will make these issues a priority when patrolling.

"This is a grassroots approach that will see residents and police working in partnership to ensure the policing needs of residents are tailored to various suburbs.

"Residents would also be given feedback from police as a follow up and hear directly from police how they are dealing with the issues in their local neighbourhoods." Mr Corbell said

Other elements of the policing and community safety package include:

- Providing a significant increase in police resources (\$3.1 million per annum recurrent and \$200,000 in capital) for the Gungahlin community, funding the Gungahlin Police Station to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and,
- \$1.5 million over four years to improve public safety in Canberra's entertainment precincts by establishing community safety partnership programs where business owners, security officers, police, city rangers and liquor inspectors would work together to improve safety through the use of CCTV in Manuka, Kingston and Civic.

Media release

“ACT Labor is committed to ensuring the safety of all Canberrans and that the Territory remains a fair and safe community now and into the future,” Mr Corbell said. “We are determined to ensure that Canberra remains one of the safest cities in Australia.”

Statement Ends

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