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Liberals cut anti-terrorism and emergency co-ordination

The Liberals' proposed multi-million dollar cut to the ACT Government's justice area will jeopardise the ACT's ability to cope with a major terrorism or emergency incident, Attorney-General Simon Corbell said today.

"The Liberals have identified cuts worth \$2.56 million over four years to the Policy Advice and Justice Programs area in the Department of Justice and Community Safety," Mr Corbell said.

"This area includes the vital Security and Emergency Management branch.

"Security and Emergency Management branch plays a vital role in co-ordinating the ACT Government's emergency response in the event of a terror attack or other major disaster.

"This includes provision of public information and warnings, and co-ordination with the Commonwealth Government, the armed forces, police and other ACT Government agencies.

"Security and Emergency Management branch also runs the Territory Crisis Centre, which co-ordinates public information and whole-of-government response to all major emergencies.

"These arrangements were set up following the 2003 bushfires to ensure the ACT is better prepared and to deal with major emergencies.

"These cuts put community safety at risk. They mean there will be no co-ordination of the Government's emergency response under the Liberals and we will be back to the bad old days pre-bushfires.

"This cut is just another example of the Liberals not being ready for government and being fast and loose with public safety to pay for their reckless election commitments." Mr Corbell said.

Statement Ends

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