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Media Release – No tracking for most youth offenders

Less than half of the “hardcore” youth offenders will be eligible to be tracked using GPS technology according to Member for Burdekin and Shadow Minister for Police and Corrective Services, Dale Last.

After hearing the Labor government repeatedly refer to 10% of young offenders being responsible for 48% of youth crime, Mr Last sought further information which has cast doubt over the effectiveness of GPS tracking.

“Based on the figures provided by the Minister, only 147 young offenders will even be eligible to have their movements monitored using GPS,” Mr Last said. “And then the trackers can only be used if they have previously been convicted of a serious offence and are charged with another serious offence.”

“The largest group of the 344 offenders that make up the hardcore 10% are aged 15 and won’t be subject to being tracked and over 10% of that hardcore group are now aged 18 or over. Even if you take out the hardcore members who are now aged over 18, it is still less than half that may be tracked.”

Mr Last said the information provided by the government and recent examples of juvenile offenders having their convictions quashed proved that the government’s approach didn’t go far enough.

“To be fitted with a GPS tracker these offenders need to have been convicted of a serious offence,” Mr Last said. “Many would argue that, by the time an offender is stealing cars or seriously assaulting people, it is already too late, let alone the fact that they have to have been convicted and fit in the designated age groups.”

“To have 305 offenders cause so much damage to victims across the state shows that there is not enough capacity in the Youth Justice System. The new detention centre that opened in December houses only 32 offenders.”

“This data proves what we have been saying since the amendments were announced; that they don’t go far enough. The community is expected to wait until an offender is convicted of a serious offence and commits another serious offence and the court is satisfied that the GPS tracker will be maintained so it is a very reactive system.”



“The LNP has called repeatedly for Breach of Bail to be reinstated as an offence for young offenders. That would allow Police to be proactive and would mean the community would be safer much sooner.”

“It’s time the Labor government was actually honest and up-front with people instead of denying there is a problem for years and then, only after 8 people have died, using half measures. Ignoring the single largest group of hardcore offenders is yet another example of the government ignoring the calls of the community, just as they have done by ruling out Breach of Bail.”

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