

ARALUEN NEWS

25 January 2024



Robyn LAMBLEY MLA Member for ARALUEN

Dear Residents,

A wise person once said: There are so many great things in life, why dwell on the negativity?

Whilst most of us are by nature fairly positive, sometimes circumstances get the better of us and it is difficult to rise above the hardship and horror. I was recently accused of posting too much negativity on my Facebook page. Unfortunately politics is primarily about finding solutions to problems and most problems by their very nature are negative. Politicians are in the business of problems. It goes with the turf.

As your local Member of Parliament it would be remiss of me to not talk about the number one problem affecting our lives in Alice Springs and that is crime.

Despite the apparent Federal Government attention and \$250 million funding thrown at crime since last summer, things are still bad in the town, particularly with youth crime. I have no doubt that some youth services are doing a magnificent job in helping young people to find their way but there are too many more kids who are not connecting with positive alternatives. Carrots and sticks are needed to deal with most problems involving human behaviour. The sticks, or legal consequences, have been removed for juvenile offenders 12 year and under. There are only carrots left for these kids and this is clearly not working. Alice Springs has the highest rate of youth reoffending in the country.

A longitudinal study, case by case, of these children is required to provide better knowledge as to what approach actually does work to steer young people away from crime. What happens to them under this current system of no responsibility and no consequences? Does it actually mean that their lives will be better by not experiencing any punishment or any consequence for their behaviour? This defies logic and what we all understand about human nature and learning. Rewarding bad behaviour almost certainly equals more bad behaviour. Confusing kids in this way is not helpful nor does it prepare them for life ahead. I understand the importance of kindness in working with all human beings. Balance and common-sense is always a key.

Crime in Alice Springs will never improve under the current policy settings and funding priorities.

We have had 6 years of NT Government policy based on the recommendations of *2017 Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT*. This has coincided with 6 years of unprecedented levels of crime, much of it involving juveniles. The current system is failing all of us.

Most NT public school students go back on Tuesday 30th January 2024.

Parents can access a \$200 Back to School Voucher from the NT Government to help with educational items.



For more information speak to your child's school or go to the governments website <https://nt.gov.au/learning/student-financial-help-and-scholarships/back-to-school-payment-scheme>

**2024 Australia Day
Citizenship Ceremony
Starts at 7am on the Council lawns**



What Will Happen in 2024

Parliament 2024



August 2024 Election, Labor will have been in power for 19 out of the past 23 years. It is reasonable to conclude that the life we have in the NT, good and bad, is almost exclusively attributable to the policies and decisions of NT Labor Governments. The people of the NT will need to decide if they want another 4 years of Labor or a change to the CLP.

This year being an election year the Parliamentary schedule ends in June after Budget Estimates Hearings. Then there is a two month hiatus running into the election with no Parliament.

NT Parliament usually resumes after an August election in September or October, depending on if there is a change of Government.

The first sittings of 2024 commences on Tuesday 13th February for three days. Then Parliament sits for 2 weeks in March.

The 2024 NT General Election

The NT Parliament has fixed four year terms dictated by law. The next NT Election will be on **Saturday 24th August 2024**. The only thing that can change the date of the election is a change to the NT *Electoral Act 2004* through Parliament.

This means that in less than 7 months all NT residents, over the aged of 18, who are enrolled to vote, will go to the polls to elect their local Member of Parliament and ultimately the next NT Government.

Labor has held Government in the NT since 2001, all bar 4 years from 2012-2016, when the Country Liberal Party held power. This means that by the

The next 7 months will see fierce campaigning. Labor has realised their loss in popularity due to exploding crime and financial mismanagement. The CLP can smell a possible victory in the face of Territorians wanting a change. This election will be a real contest.

As an Independent Member I am first and foremost focused on what is best for Alice Springs. Another 4 years of Labor is likely to see a continuing deterioration of law and order in Alice Springs, like we have seen over the past 5 years. We clearly cannot afford this. There will be nothing and no one left if this lawlessness continues. People need to ensure they are enrolled to vote and that their enrolment details are up to date.

Big Changes to Cabinet

There were big changes to the leadership of the NT Labor Government just before Christmas. A new Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister were appointed, and another major reshuffle was triggered. The former Chief Minister, Natasha Fyles, was forced to resign from her position on 18 December 2023 after it was revealed she had failed to disclose a number of Conflict of Interests as per the Ministerial Code of Conduct and NT Legislative Assembly Guidelines. This lack of integrity erodes the credibility of any Government and these controversies will inevitably plague the Labor Government going into the election.

You can apply now for a POSTAL VOTE for the August 2024 NT Election



Applications for a Postal Vote for the NT General Election in August have now opened.
<https://ntec.nt.gov.au/voting/voting-options/applying-for-a-postal-vote>

If you are not sure where you will be or what you will be doing from 12th to 24th August 2024, then apply for a postal vote. The Araluen Electorate Office can help you. Drop by and see David or Joanne or call us on telephone 89 51 5588. Once you have applied the NTEC will send you your voting material once nominations close in mid-August 2024.

Promised Infrastructure Projects

Literally most of the promises made for Alice Springs by the current NT Labor Government, since coming to power in 2016, have not been delivered.

The total value of all projects promised by the NT Government total over \$580m. The total value of projects they have completed currently sits at less than \$100m. This amounts to a massive under-spend on game-changing projects for Alice Springs.

These undelivered projects include:

The National Aboriginal Art Gallery	estimated \$250m (2018)
The National Aboriginal Cultural Centre	estimated \$100-200m (2018)
Flood Mitigation Works	estimated \$155m (Report 2017)
Alice Springs Juvenile Detention Centre	estimated \$35m (2018)
The Arumbera Industrial Estate	estimated \$20m (2018)
The completed CBD Revitalisation	estimated \$20m (2017)
New Rugby League Ovals	estimated \$20-30m (2018)
Red Centre Adventure Ride	estimated \$11m (2018)
New Home for Tourism Central Australia	estimated \$5m (2022)

Whilst some of these projects have commenced, for example the CBD Revitalisation project and the Alice Springs juvenile Detention Centre, they are not complete.

We would hope in 2024, within the last 7 months of this term of Government, we will see some of these projects completed and commenced as promised years ago.

The underspend on infrastructure projects for Alice Springs is extraordinary.



The Electorate of Araluen has two highly problematic big, old housing complexes that have been the epicentres of a disproportionate level of crime and anti-social behaviour for decades.

If you live in or around the Keith Lawrie Flats on Bloomfield Street or the Mokari Flats on Nicker Crescent, then you will know exactly what I am talking about.

In April 2022 the Northern Territory Government announced that as part of their new proposed public housing model, over 2000 assets (or dwellings) would be handed over to Community Housing Providers. This new model was planned to improve the community housing sector.

In Alice Springs it was originally proposed that the Keith Lawrie Flats and the Mokari Flats would be transferred to a Community Housing Provider. We have recently been informed that the Keith Lawrie Flats will be transferred to a Community Housing Providers, whilst the Mokari Flats will remain under NT Government management.

The rationale for this decision was not provided by the Minister for Housing. The main Community Housing Provider in Alice Springs at this time is Community Housing Central Australia, an independent not-for-profit organisation, founded by Tangentyere Council.

It can only be hoped that the transfer of the Keith Lawrie Flats to a community provider will improve the delivery of housing and improve the law and order issues in these areas. I will be watching this very closely.



Keith Lawrie Flats

Over the years there have been multiple and regular calls for a curfew to help curb extreme public crime and anti-social behaviour in Alice Springs. Temporary, decisive and clear - a curfew could be extremely affective at resetting and putting an immediate stop to lawlessness.

The NT Labor Government will tell you there is "no evidence" to support curfews. This is entirely incorrect and misleading. There are numerous examples of successful curfews all over the world. Some curfews have been in operation for decades and continue to be effective.

MLA renews curfew call

NATASHA EMECK
natasha.emeck@news.com.au

INDEPENDENT Member for Araluen Natasha Emeck has renewed her calls to impose a curfew on Alice Springs kids despite being rejected in parliament.

Ms Emeck launched a petition calling for the introduction of youth curfew this week after a similar online petition - which racked up more than 300 signatures in a few days - was recently taken down.

The MLA faced a mail block in parliament last September when Labor voted against her motion to bring a curfew for kids under 16 living on the street between 10pm and 5am.

She warned the Government would pay the price in August for not taking calls for a youth curfew in Alice Springs seriously.

"People clearly don't want a curfew - they've signed enough of the petition to show we have evidence of crime we have to address in Alice Springs," Ms Emeck said.



Member for Araluen Natasha Emeck outside a property that is regularly targeted by youths.

PICTURE: SPINA HENNING

NT News—28 January 2020

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The very best example for Alice Springs people to consider is the curfew and lockdown that was imposed on our town during COVID from 6th to 23rd January 2022. For 3 weeks Alice Springs was locked down and people were stopped from unnecessarily moving about during the day and night.

This was imposed by the Territory Controller and upheld by Police and other Government agencies. The results from a law and order perspective were exceptional. During the curfew (or lockdown) the town was peaceful and stable. Crime all but stopped.

We absolutely have evidence that a curfew or lockdown can work in Alice Springs. There is no reason why a curfew could not be implemented again as a temporary measure. The NT Government owes it to the people of Alice Springs to try everything at their disposal to help our community address the escalating problem of crime.

Their ideological opposition to curfews is irrational and based on politics rather than fact. Anyone who lived in Alice Springs during COVID knows a curfew and lockdown can work as a temporary measure. The cost of a curfew to the economy is probably the same as the cost crime. However the benefits could be profound.

The National Aboriginal Art Gallery – let's pause until after the election!!

Over the years I have written a lot about the National Aboriginal Art Gallery (NAAG) first announced and funded by the former CLP Government in mid-2016 and completely mismanaged ever since by the current Labor Government. This has been the dog's breakfast of all dog's breakfasts! Almost 8 years after it was conceived it is still in the planning stage.

Late last year the new Chief Minister, Eva Lawler, announced the first sod of the NAAG would be turned in April 2024 on Anzac Oval, the deeply unpopular site chosen for the gallery by this Government.

After waiting for so long I think this momentous, if not tragic, occasion should be postponed until after the August NT Election.



Anzac Oval was not the preferred site of most traditional owners, who clearly stated it should be built south of the Gap. The original NAAG steering committee recommended in 2017 it be built at the Desert Park. And most long term locals invariably have a great affection for Anzac Oval and want the Oval left as it is.

On top of this, the NT Labor Government promised that Anzac Oval would not be repurposed until an alternative home for rugby league and rugby union had been built. This also has not happened.

The Government has no mandate or authority from the people of Alice Springs to repurpose one of our much loved and treasured public spaces. They need to take this whole debacle to the election and let the people of Alice Springs decide if after 8 years this is what Alice Springs residents actually want, otherwise Anzac Oval will be lost forever.

Euthanasia is Back on the Agenda



The NT was the first Australian jurisdiction to pass legislation legalising euthanasia or Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) in 1995. This legislation was subsequently overturned by the Federal Government in 1997. The NT Labor Government publicly indicated in 2023 they intend to pass legislation once again legalising Voluntary Assisted Dying.

An "expert" committee has been formed and has undertaken a round of public consultations on how VAD could be implemented in the NT. A community meeting to discuss VAD will be held in Alice Springs in early 2024, however the dates have not yet been made public.

Written submissions can be made by emailing vadinquiry@nt.gov.au. Alternatively if you would like to do a survey on VAD go to the NT Government website at www.haveyoursay.nt.gov.au. The survey and submissions will close on 16 February 2024.

Voluntary Assisted Dying remains a highly contentious issue in Australia. To date VAD legislation has now passed in all Australian states. The NT is the last jurisdiction to have not introduced Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation. It is unlikely the NT Government will introduce this legislation before the August 2024 NT Election. Anecdotally VAD is not popular amongst Aboriginal communities and this could influence the outcome of what will be a tight election, something Labor would be foolish to risk. No doubt there will be a lot more coming on this issue over the next year or two.

Araluen News The talk of the town!!!

Subscribe to the Araluen News
by sending an email to

electorate.araluen@nt.gov.au

Community Events

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Tennis COME & TRY

5PM SATURDAY
27 JANUARY
@ TENNIS COURTS

BRING YOUR RACQUET FOR A FUN EVENING OF TENNIS!

- BBQ dinner available
- Free Screening: Australian Open Tennis Women's Final (from 5.30)
- Wheelchair Tennis
- Group mini games
- Minute to win it challenges

tennis ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

01 Mar

THE AUSTRALIAN INXS SHOW

Theatre / Music
The Australian INXS Show

WHEELHOUSE AGENCY & THE KINGSWOOD BROTHERLY ENTERPRISES LIMITED PRESENT

KINGSWOOD

HOME COMING

2 February @ 7pm — Alice Springs Brewing Co

2024
March 7-10

fabALICE festival

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

Jaytex

CONSTRUCTION

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL
COMEDY
FESTIVAL
ROADSHOW

WED 15 MAY, 7.30PM
ARALUEN ARTS CENTRE

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

6:30AM - SAT 3RD FEB 2024

WELCOME BACK MPARTWE

2024 ASRWC SEASON LAUNCH
FREE 5KM/2.5KM FUN RUN/WALK
LAWNS OPPOSITE YHA HOSTEL
RACE BRIEFING 6:20 AM
RACE STARTS 6:30 AM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Birth and Beyond Antenatal Workshop—11 February

ALICE SPRINGS
UNDER - 10 CRICKET
COMPETITION

FRIDAY, 16 FEB 2024
5.00PM - 6.30PM
6/8 A SIDE COMP
5 WEEKS
4 GAMES EACH
\$17 INSURANCE
FEE ONLY

JOIN NOW

MULTICULTURAL WOMEN'S GROUP

MCSCA welcomes women from different backgrounds. The first session for the year 2024!

Catching up, Sharing stories
Learning how to keep hydrated with Bridget Shelton from Red Cross

Thursday, 15th February 2024
From 10.30 - 12.00 pm

For catering & activity purposes
please RSVP 89528776

MCSCA Office
5b Wills Terrace
Opposite side of the Catholic Church