

Jeremy Hanson MLA

Opposition Whip

Shadow Minister for Education and Higher Education

Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education

Shadow Minister for Police

Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs

Member for Murrumbidgee

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 20 April 2021

Under embargo until Tuesday April 20, 2021

Labor-Greens Government must address police shortage in ACT

The Canberra Liberals will today call on the Labor-Greens Government to increase the number of police to at least match per-capita levels with NSW by 2024.

In a Motion to be put forward in the Legislative Assembly today, Shadow Minister for Police, Jeremy Hanson, will also call for the establishment of a permanent police station in the Molonglo Valley by 2022.

Mr Hanson said the latest Report on Government Services (ROGS) from the Productivity Commission shows that the ACT has the lowest number police per-capita in Australia and has fewer sworn operational staff now than it did nearly a decade ago.

“Police are stretched to the limit and as a result are taking longer to respond to reports of criminal activity,” said Mr Hanson.

“The Labor-Greens Government cut \$15 million from the ACT Policing Budget in 2013 and funding has been in decline over the last decade.

“The ACT population has been increasing over the past 10 years but unfortunately police numbers haven’t.

“Policing is a tough job and our officers in the ACT need more support from this government than what they are getting now.”

Mr Hanson said there has been significant population growth in the Molonglo region, but a lack of police presence has resulted in reports of significant criminal activity.

“There is clearly a need for a permanent police station in the region to service the area along with neighbouring Weston Creek.

“It is not good enough for these areas to rely on the Woden Police Station that is already understaffed and having to cover Woden Valley, Weston Creek and Molonglo.

Media contact:

Dean Croker M 0434 631 511 E dean.croker@parliament.act.gov.au