



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**THE HON. TONY ABBOTT MHR, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WARRINGAH  
SENATOR THE HON. GEORGE BRANDIS SC, SHADOW ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
MR MICHAEL KEENAN MHR,  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION**

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### **THE COALITION'S PLAN FOR SAFER STREETS**

A Coalition Government will make our streets safer by providing \$50 million to tackle local crime hotspots across Australia.

The Coalition's *Plan for Safer Streets* will boost the efforts of local communities to address crime and anti-social behaviour by helping them to implement cost effective measures, such as the installation of CCTV and better lighting.

Assistance in the form of financial grants will be available from a pool of \$50 million to help deliver effective solutions.

By international standards, Australian communities are comparatively safe and we are well served by the dedicated men and women of our various police forces. However, the Commonwealth can also play an important role in supporting local communities in their efforts to fight crime.

The Coalition will work with police, business, state and local government and residents to fund local solutions and tackle crime hotspots.

If elected to government, the Coalition will:

1. Provide *Safer Streets, Safer Communities Grants* – these grants will ensure needed local infrastructure such as better lighting, CCTV and mobile CCTV can be rolled out in crime hotspots; and
2. Re-commit Proceeds of Crime funding to community crime prevention activities – the Coalition will reverse Labor's decision to prop up its budget by freezing funds collected under Proceeds of Crime laws and return this money to the community.

The best way to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour is to prevent it happening. The prevention of crime means less senseless deaths and needless injuries, it means reduced costs in the justice system, and it means stronger communities.

We take a principled view that governments should not use the money collected from the proceeds of crime to prop up an artificial surplus, governments should use that money to make life more difficult for criminals.

Under Labor, Australia's capacity to fight crime has been weakened with cuts of over \$400 million including cuts to the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Crime Commission and to Customs cargo inspections.

The Coalition's Plan for Safer Streets will give local communities the tools to develop the best local strategies to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour. These solutions will inevitably involve the police, community groups, local government, business and residents working together to present clear, well-thought through local strategies.

This plan builds on the Howard Government's successful *National Community Crime Prevention* grants programme.

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