

Port Augusta deserves action on crime — not silence

Mayor Linley Shine has called on the State Government to urgently respond to unacceptable levels of crime, antisocial behaviour, substance abuse and violence in Port Augusta, saying the community has been left waiting too long for meaningful action.

Mayor Shine said residents, businesses and families are increasingly frustrated and frightened by ongoing incidents of property entry, theft, public disorder, drug-related activity, violence and antisocial behaviour.

“Our community has had enough,” Mayor Shine said.

“Port Augusta is dealing with unacceptable levels of crime and social disorder, and the response from the State Government has simply not been good enough.

“This is not about political point scoring. This is about people’s homes being broken into, businesses being targeted, families feeling unsafe, and residents asking why their community is not receiving the urgent attention it deserves.”

Mayor Shine said Council has continued to advocate strongly behind the scenes for increased policing, stronger intervention, and better coordinated responses, but the community is entitled to see clear public action from the State Government.

“Council is doing the hard work, but local government cannot solve these issues alone,” she said.

“We need SAPOL properly resourced. We need the State Government to acknowledge the seriousness of what is happening here. We need action on substance abuse, youth crime, repeat offending, antisocial behaviour and public safety.

“What we do not need is more talk, more delays, or more bureaucratic fluff that achieves absolutely nothing for the people who are living with this every day.”

Mayor Shine said it had not gone unnoticed that Premier Peter Malinauskas is a regular visitor to Whyalla, while Port Augusta continues to feel ignored.

“The Premier appears to find time to visit Whyalla on a very regular basis, yet Port Augusta is being neglected while our community faces serious and escalating issues,” Mayor Shine said.

“We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for fair treatment.

“Port Augusta is a major regional centre. We are a key service hub for the Upper Spencer Gulf and the Far North. Our community matters, and we deserve the attention and support of the Premier, Ministers and the State Government.”

Mayor Shine also criticised the lack of visible advocacy from the local Member for Giles, Eddie Hughes MP.

“It is deeply disappointing that our local Member, Eddie Hughes, has been conspicuous in his absence and silence on the crime and safety issues facing Port Augusta,” Mayor Shine said.

“Our community needs strong representation. We need our local Member standing up publicly and loudly for Port Augusta, not missing in action while residents and businesses continue to deal with the consequences.”

Mayor Shine said Council is seeking urgent commitments from the State Government, including:

- increased SAPOL resourcing for Port Augusta;
- immediate action to address property crime, theft, violence, substance abuse and antisocial behaviour;
- reinstatement of the Declared Public Precinct, particularly ahead of the summer period;
- continued funding for the Safer Places Project;
- a clear public statement from the Minister for Police acknowledging the level of crime impacting Port Augusta; and
- a detailed explanation from SAPOL and the State Government about what immediate measures are being implemented.

“Our community wants to know what is being done, when it is being done, and who is accountable,” Mayor Shine said.

“Port Augusta residents are tired of being told to wait. They are tired of excuses. They are tired of feeling unsafe in their own community.

“The State Government must stop overlooking Port Augusta and start treating these issues with the urgency they deserve.”

Mayor Shine said Council remains willing to work constructively with SAPOL, the State Government and local agencies, but said cooperation must be matched by action.

“We will continue to advocate for this community without apology.” she said.

“Port Augusta deserves better than silence. It deserves leadership, resources and action — now.”

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