Alice Springs Town Council

Notice of Motion

I Councillor Eli Melky hereby give notice of my intention to move at the next meeting of the Corporate and Community Services Committee, Monday 17 July 2017, the following motion:

That the Alice Springs Town Council act on behalf of the people of Alice Springs and immediately write to the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory Government, to implement an Emergency Youth Curfew for those 16 years old and under, from the hours of 10pm till 6am.

The Chief Minister to sufficiently resource the appropriate Government agencies and bring back order to the streets of Alice Springs without delay.

The Curfew is to take effect immediately and remain in force until such time as Order is restored to the town.

Moved: Councillor Eli Melky
Seconded: TBC

17 July 2017

Reasoning for Motion (RESTORE ORDER):

I have continued to raise the concerns of the community over the past 6 years, on three occasions asking for a curfew to be implemented, to no avail. Sadly I find myself obligated to do so again for the fourth time, on this occasion it is in response to very serious lawlessness and gang related crimes on our streets.

As Council, being the third tier of Government and being a statutory body with Elected Members, has a duty to act on behalf of our community and make representation on any issue of concern to any other tier of Government, including Territory and Federal.

Council must address the immediate issue of gang related vandalism and the terrorising of our community. The Chief Minister and his cabinet are the appropriate tier of government who are responsible to sufficiently resource the appropriate Government agencies and can bring back order to the streets of Alice Springs.

The Local Government Act is clear on the objective of Council that they must act in the best interest of the community.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT - SECT 13 - Objectives of a council

- A council has the following objectives:
  (a) to provide open, responsive and accountable government at the local level;
  (b) to be responsive to the needs, interests and aspirations of individuals and groups within its area;
to cooperate with Territory and national governments in the delivery of services for the benefit of its area;

(h) generally to act at all times in the best interests of the community as a whole.

**Youth Curfew Strategic Actions**

**Bus Transport into Alice Springs:** I would call for an investigation into how minors are able to travel to Alice Springs from communities on buses without a guardian.

**Youth services after hour’s bus services:** Need to extend the youth services bus pick up past 11:30pm, till a later time during busy periods such as Footy Carnivals or show school holidays.

**Role of police:** to assist in enforcing curfew by working with Youth Services to ensure kids are off the streets and delivered to a safe environment. Establish a central location for youth service bus to pick up youth with assistance of police to ensure kids arrive and board buses.

**Emergency Overnight accommodation:** Establish a safe location where police and youth services can drop off any curfew affected youth. This accommodation can act as a process area/ triage area where with the assistance of youth workers, they are able to find out which communities the kids can be returned to.

**Role of Council:** partner with NTG, communication and joint partnerships should be ongoing to ensure the resources are maintained to the need required.

**Role of NTG:** ensure the resources and support is made available to the relevant government agencies and have a definite sustainable plan long into the future.

**Council and Government Resources:** Consolidate resources to ensure no overlap or underuse so as to ensure best outcome.

**Indigenous organisations:** to also partner with Council and NTG and bring about outcome in the best interest of all. This begins with consultations with indigenous organisations and invite them to the table.

**Community service groups:** To volunteer and distribute food and blankets for those who are homeless or hungry.

**Sporting groups:** to ensure there is an effective return to country plan during carnivals with the assistance of the clubs and communities involved. Offer volunteers to help engage youth and provide better direction for their future using sport.

**Lighting the town:** light up darkened areas such as the park across from Kittles

**Youth ID:** Youth should have the ability to produce a form of ID with name and address and emergency contact details in the case of needing assistance and help to get home.

**No Guardian:** Youth coming into town from communities with no guardians or accommodation planned, and with no money must be assisted back to their parents/guardians and dropped back to their community.