



Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston CCTV System

A Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system will be operating in Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston by December 2009. The CCTV system forms part of a package of measures introduced by the Northern Territory Government to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the Northern Territory.

CCTV footage is a proactive initiative and will:-

- send a strong message to offenders that criminal and anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated, and assist Police in identifying those responsible;
- act as a deterrent to would-be offenders;
- provide a safer environment for the public; and
- provide information to police investigating criminal incidents and anti-social behaviour.

Installation of the CCTV system has been funded under the Territory Government's Anti-social Behaviour Initiatives and the Australian Government's Safer Suburbs Plan.

CCTV cameras will be strategically placed in known hotspots around Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston to identify and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The CCTV system will be operated by a dedicated police monitoring team located in a real-time CCTV control room. Cameras will be monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week during an initial six month trial period, after which Police will analyse the CCTV system's effectiveness. The majority of footage will be destroyed after 30 days, although some will be kept longer as evidence for police investigations and prosecutions.

The cameras will be targeted towards public areas and will not affect law abiding citizens going about their daily business. The CCTV cameras will be capable of capturing high quality images suitable for use in police prosecutions. All images collected by CCTV cameras will be managed in accordance with the *Information Act NT*.



Questions and Answers

Why do we need CCTV?

CCTV cameras form part of a package of measures introduced by the Northern Territory Government to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the Northern Territory. CCTV is a proactive initiative that will:-

- send a strong message to offenders that criminal and anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated, and will assist Police in identifying those responsible;
- act as a deterrent to would-be offenders;
- provide a safer environment for the public; and
- provide information to police investigating crimes and anti-social behaviour.

How many cameras will there be?

There will be 109 cameras connected to the CCTV system, which includes 46 existing cameras located at the Bus Interchanges at Palmerston and Casuarina, and at the taxi rank in Mitchell Street, Darwin City.

Where will they be located?

The CCTV system will consist of Fixed and Pan, Tilt and Zoom cameras connected to three main surveillance nodes located in the Local Police Offices in Darwin, Casuarina and Palmerston.

- In Darwin, cameras will be located in Mitchell Street, Smith Street (including the Mall) and McLachlan Street.
- In Casuarina, cameras will be located in Dripstone Road, Trower Road, Bradshaw Terrace and Scaturchio Street.
- In Palmerston, cameras will be located in the area roughly bordered by Roystonea Avenue, Temple Terrace, Chung Wah Terrace, the Boulevard and the area adjacent to the Skate Park.

Will cameras be signposted to warn people they are on camera?

Yes. In accordance with the *Information Act NT* signage will be located in the general vicinity of camera locations advising that surveillance is occurring, and providing a contact number for members of the public requiring access to information.

What will CCTV achieve?

CCTV footage will provide a new form of intelligence and be a source of reliable evidence for the prosecution of any crimes committed. The presence of the CCTV cameras will act as a deterrent to those intending to commit criminal acts, and therefore assist in preventing and detecting crime. The presence of CCTV cameras is also expected to improve safety for those persons who live, work and use the areas monitored by CCTV.

What about privacy issues for responsible citizens?

CCTV cameras will be operated by police who will be monitoring criminal and anti-social behaviour. Images collected by CCTV cameras will be managed in accordance with the *Information Act NT*.

Is this the start of real life Big Brother in Darwin?

No. The cameras will be focussed on public areas and will not affect law abiding citizens going about their daily business. The CCTV system will incorporate technology to blank out camera angles that exceed the parameters of public areas.

What has the Territory Government invested in this project?

The Territory Government has invested \$7.145 million over five years to operate and install the CCTV system. The Australian Government has committed \$2.25 million. Further information can be found on the website www.asb.nt.gov.au