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HEMP WARNS ON POT PLAN

HEMP SA have applauded the long overdue move towards Cannabis law reform in the Northern Territory, but issued a strong warning to Territorians to be aware of the flaws of the South Australian legislation the NT plan is modelled on.

Whilst the expiation notice system has good intentions ; ie to remove criminal penalties for the simple possession, use and cultivation of cannabis; in practice it hasn't worked said James Danenberg, from Help End Marijuana Prohibition (HEMP S.A.)

Instead, more people are being busted, it's easier to bust people, (the net-widening effect) and more (disproportionately young) people are having their rights infringed and life opportunities compromised by a criminal conviction.

Prohibition with civil penalties is still prohibition: It just doesn't work.

The NT Government should take this opportunity to follow the recommendations of the SA Legislative Council Select Committee, and the National Cannabis Taskforce's Legislative Options and introduce regulated availability - the best way to undermine organised crime. Mr Danenberg stated

Release Ends

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