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Dr Chris Burns
ACTING MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

01 January 2007

New Road Changes Will Protect Families

New road safety changes designed to protect Territory families have come into force, the acting Transport Minister Chris Burns said today.

These changes will save lives and reduce the unnecessary road trauma on Territory roads, Dr Burns said.

One person is killed and nine seriously injured on our roads every week. I'm confident that over time, the new traffic regulations will reduce these unacceptable statistics.

Drink driving, speed and fatigue, coupled with people not wearing seatbelts and motorists running red lights will be targeted with increased fines.

Speed limits will also be reduced to 130km/h on the Stuart, Arnhem, Victoria and Barkly highways. A 110km/h limit will apply on all other roads, unless otherwise signposted.

I know some Territorians don't like the changes, but the results on the Lasseter Highway over the past four years speak for themselves, Dr Burns said.

Since a 110 km/h speed limit was introduced on that highway in 2001, the number of deaths has been cut by 38%.

Getting drivers to slow down works.

Dr Burns pointed to the Territory's zero holiday road toll, citing it as a good example of motorists doing the right thing.

I urge everyone who is on the road this New Year season to continue to take care and drive safely, he said.

The Territory has often had holiday seasons with no deaths but has been unable to sustain that good record throughout the years, that must change.

Dr Burns said new traffic regulations have been introduced and police have been given increased resources in the form of a \$1.4 million Traffic Branch.

It's now up to motorists to do the right thing, he said.

A safer Territory is in all our hands.

Contact: Andrea Adlam 0401 119467

FACT SHEET

Changes to Road Rules on 1 January, 2007

The following changes form part of a package to make our roads safer for all Territorians.

Penalties

Penalties for a range of road safety related offences will be increased:

- drink driving infringement penalties for offences under 0.08 will double
- speeding infringement penalties will double and a new infringement penalty of \$500 for travelling more than 45 km/h above the speed limit will be introduced
- seatbelt penalties will double
- penalties for disobeying red traffic lights will double and penalties for disobeying yellow traffic lights will be increased
- penalties for not displaying an L or P plate when required will double

Offence	Current penalty	New penalty
Drink driving penalties:		
Drive with BAC over 0.0 (Traffic Act section 19(7) and 19(8))	\$100	\$200
Drive with BAC over 0.05	\$100	\$200
Speeding penalties:		
Exceed speed limit by up to 15 km/h	\$50	\$100
Over 15 km/h up to 30 km/h	\$100	\$200
Over 30 km/h up to 45 km/h	\$150	\$300
Over 45 km/h	n/a	\$500
Seatbelt penalties:		
Driver fails to wear seatbelt	\$100	\$200
Adult passenger fails to wear seatbelt	\$100	\$200
Driver fails to ensure child or young person wears seatbelt	\$120	\$240
Traffic light penalties:		
Fail to obey red traffic light	\$120	\$240
Fail to obey yellow traffic light	\$80	\$100
L & P plate penalty:		
Drive without L or P plate when required	\$50	\$100

Speed Limits

- A 130 km/h speed limit will apply where signed on the Stuart, Barkly, Victoria and Arnhem Highways.
- A new default 110 km/h limit will apply on all other rural roads unless otherwise signposted.

Road toll 1995-96 to 2005-06 for Northern Territory

Year	Xmas/New Year (financial year)	Easter (calendar year beginning 1996)	Total for the calendar year

			(beginning 1999)
1995-96	7	2	
1996-97	0	2	
1997-98	2	0	
1998-99	0	0	49
1999-00	3	0	51
2000-01	0	1	50
2001-02	3	0	55
2002-03	1	0	53
2003-04	3	0	35
2004-05	3	0	55
2005-06	1	1	Currently 44

*The Christmas/New Year holiday period includes all fatal crashes occurring between 00:01 am on the Friday before the 25 of December and 11:59 pm on the Friday after or including 1 January.
Source: ATSB Monthly Road Fatality Database, February 2006.

*The Easter holiday period includes all fatal crashes occurring between 00:01 am on Easter Thursday and 11:59 pm on Easter Monday. All numbers are preliminary pending the completion of the coronial process.
Source: 2004 Western Australia Police Service.
Source: 2005& 6 Queensland Police Service.

Moving the Territory Ahead

