



PETER STYLES MLA | Member for **SANDERSON**
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

MEDIA RELEASE

OPEN SPEED LIMITS TRIAL TO BEGIN

31 January 2014

A 200km stretch of the Stuart Highway will undergo a 12 month open speed limit trial, starting tomorrow.

Minister for Transport, Peter Styles, said the stretch of road, south of Barrow Creek to just north of Alice Springs was recommended for the trial as it had no identified road geometry issues and low crash numbers.

“The stretch of highway has undergone a multi-million dollar upgrade to improve safety during the trial,” Mr Styles said.

“2013 saw the road toll drop by nearly 25% in the Northern Territory, with 12 fewer deaths on our roads than in 2012 and the lowest since 2009.

“In the ten years between 2001-2011 there weren’t any speed related fatalities on this stretch of road. Since 2011 there have been no fatalities on this stretch of road.”

Mr Styles said the Territory Government were continually undertaking audits and assessments on the major highways of the Northern Territory.

“The Territory has a unique road network with long distances and low traffic volume. With the implementation of this trial we are putting the responsibility back on motorists.

“Motorists need to be able to drive to the road conditions and their capabilities.”

Mr Styles reminded motorists that this trial of revised speed limits was not a licence to drive recklessly, dangerously or without due care.

“Open speed limits mean driving to the road conditions - everyone should drive within their own capabilities, the condition of the road, prevailing weather conditions and the standard of their vehicle.

“Learner and provisional drivers and heavy vehicles will continue to be speed limited as they are now.

“Be warned - police will be increasing their presence on this area of road. We will not tolerate reckless driving.”

Media Contact: Jack Cranwell 0428 574 943