REVIVING THE CAR TESTING INDUSTRY

With Parliament resuming the Territory Opposition have renewed calls for the Martin Government to introduce a permit system exempting motor vehicle manufacturers from the open road 130km/h speed limit that came into operation on the 1st of January this year.

The previous absence of open road speed limits was a critical factor in national and international vehicle manufacturers choosing to test their new models in the Territory.

“What I’d really like to see is the Government overturning its decision to impose speed limits on the open road, if not, the next best option is the introduction of a permit system,” says Fay Miller, Shadow Minister for Transport.

“It has been reliably estimated that the introduction of speed limits will cost the Territory $9 million per annum in lost revenue as a consequence of a virtual end to new model vehicle testing here.

“In the past, there have been up to 15 engineering teams testing vehicles between Alice Springs and Tennant Creek over the summer.

“The introduction of open road speed limits has slammed the brakes on that local industry.

“Unless the Martin Government acts now, that business is likely to be lost to South Africa and the Middle East permanently.

“The introduction of a permit system for bona fide vehicle testing should allow the Territory to keep that business.

“It would also allow the Territory to play its part in the development of safer cars for travelling at high speed in hot weather.

"The Martin Government needs to be flexible if it isn’t going to inflict unnecessary economic pain on Central Australia."

Further comment: Fay Miller 047 720 5111