Northern Territory Transport Minister, Delia Lawrie, is travelling to Broome in Western Australia to attend the Australian Transport Council meeting tomorrow with State, Territory and Federal Transport Ministers.

Ms Lawrie said regional and remote air services, road safety and roads funding will be hot topics at the meeting.

“It’s fantastic this meeting is being held in regional Australia. It will certainly make my southern colleagues see first-hand just how vast the regional and remote road network is and why a significant Federal funding injection is needed,” said Ms Lawrie.

“This is an election year and it has been highlighted that the Federal Government has a $19 billion war chest to spend on roads. I will be in there fighting for the Territory’s fair share.”

The Territory Minister will also pursue aviation issues to improve regional and remote airline services and tackle a reduced access to commercial flights for Territorians with a disability who rely on wheelchairs.

“We’re seeing a decline in regular air passenger services to remote Territorians, affecting many communities cut off by roads during the Wet who rely on air services. This is unacceptable and requires a Federal response due to onerous CASA aviation regulations,” said Ms Lawrie.

“In addition, we’ve heard concerning reports of wheelchair-bound passengers suffering restricted access to commercial flights in and out of Alice Springs because of the size and bulk of their wheelchairs.

“This is a totally unsatisfactory situation for Territorians who are wheelchair bound and I have raised it at a national level because it affects people with a disability across regional Australia.”

During her trip to Broome, Minister Lawrie will also focus on remote aged care service delivery under her other portfolio of Family and Community Services.

“I will be meeting with the operators of the Kimberley Aged Care Service who have a very innovative approach to providing aged care across a vast remote area.”