The Territory Opposition wants tougher penalties for high level drink drivers, particularly repeat offenders.

“It’s important that there is a very clear message that getting drunk and getting behind the wheel of a car won’t be tolerated,” says Terry Mills, Leader of the Opposition.

“A 2 year licence disqualification and $700 fine is too lenient for a repeat offender who attempted to avoid a random breath-testing station before blowing 0.203 whilst driving without a licence.

“This bloke has put other motorists at real risk by driving after having an absolute skinful but gets away with little more than a slap on the wrist.

“The fact he’d been previously convicted of drink driving, hadn’t had a licence since 2003 and attempted to avoid the random breath-testing station means he should have got a much tougher sentence.

“The Territory Government’s road safety initiatives have failed dismally.

“Imposing demerit points and an open road speed limit just doesn’t impact on the main causes of road fatalities – high level drink driving and people failing to wear seatbelts.

“Everyone knows that drunk driving is a major contributor to the Territory’s soaring road toll.

“We’ve already had 24 fatalities on our roads this year, up from 14 at the same time last year, which was the worst year on our roads for a decade.

“The CLP would make sure that high level drink drivers were left in no doubt about the stupidity of their actions.

“Repeat high level drink drivers will face a prison sentence and the prospect of having their cars impounded under a CLP Government.

“Until there is a concerted effort from the Government to reduce the number of people driving drunk, the Territory will have the unwanted distinction of leading the country in road fatalities.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 83 3594