ROAD TOLL STILL TO HIGH

The Territory Opposition has welcomed the reduction in the Territory’s road toll this year but want the Henderson Government to place a greater emphasis on road maintenance, drink driving and getting people to belt up to lower the rate of road trauma even further.

“This years lower road toll follows two very bad years on Territory roads and Territorians are still being injured far to often in road accidents,” says Adam Giles, shadow Minister for Transport

“Since the removal of the open speed limit and the introduction of the 130kph speed limit the road toll has increased substantially.

“The three years preceding the introduction of the speed limit (2004, 2005, and 2006) had a road toll of 134 deaths, the toll in the flowing three years (2007, 2008, and 2009) will be at least 163.

“Those figures indicate a great deal more needs to be done.

“As a start the Territory Government could start by investing more in our road network.

“The 2009 Commonwealth Grants Commission showed that the Territory Government spent only 37% of the assessed need in the 2007/08 financial year.

“In the same year just $5.2m being was spent on non-urban roads; the biggest underspend in the previous 5 years.

“Driving drunk drivers off our roads also remains a huge challenge for policy makers in the Territory.

“With the alcohol ignition lock system not being taken up by repeat drink drivers it’s clear the Government needs a re-think on how to handle drink driving.

“The Opposition has proposed that repeat high-level drink drivers lose their vehicles – clearly that’s a much tougher deterrent than alcohol ignition locks.”

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118