The Labor Government has rejected a bid for meaningful road safety reform in the Northern Territory.

Shadow Transport Minister Adam Giles said his disappointment at the defeat of his Traffic Amendment (Forfeiture and Impounding Orders) Bill was tempered by the fact he has laid a strong foundation for the reform of drink driving laws in the Territory.

"Under my proposed changes, repeat drink drivers would have faced the prospect of confiscation of their motor vehicles for periods ranging from 48 hours to permanent forfeiture," Mr Giles said.

The Bill attached a penalty point system to drink-driving offences, with the accumulation of points resulting in escalating penalties.

A low-range offence would have attracted one penalty point, a mid-range offence two penalty points and a high range offence three penalty points on top of existing drink drive sanctions.

These points would have been placed on a central register and have remained active for five years.

In the event of a repeat drink driver accumulating between three and five points, a court application would have been made to impound the vehicle for 48 hours.

Six or more points would have resulted in an application to have the vehicle forfeited.

Undue hardship caused by vehicle confiscation would have been considered during the application process.

Unfortunately, despite the highest rates of drink driving in the country, the Government chose to reject this substantial and worthwhile reform.

This is an absurd inconsistency considering motor vehicle confiscations are enforced for hooning and grog running and boats for exceeding fish catch limits.

Drink driving is an unacceptable risk to public safety and it is the responsibility of governments to send the strongest possible signal it will not be tolerated.

"Our proposals send that signal. The Henderson Government is satisfied with the status quo."

Further comment: Adam Giles 0421 588 118