Darwin Region Heavy Vehicle Taskforce Report released

A joint industry and Government report released today will help improve road safety for cars and heavy vehicles sharing Greater Darwin roads, Transport Minister Gerry McCarthy said.

The Darwin Region Heavy Vehicle Taskforce Report, developed following a Parliamentary Motion by the Member for Nelson, Gerry Wood, contains 29 recommendations.

“This Report is evidence of the Territory Government working with industry, listening to those who know our roads best and delivering practical ways to make our roads safer as our region grows,” Mr McCarthy said.

“Road trains and other heavy vehicles are fact of life for Territory drivers and as our economy and population grows so will the number of heavy vehicles.

“This report puts forward recommendations to make it safer for smaller vehicles to share the road with heavy vehicle drivers and keep the economy moving.”

Mr McCarthy said the Government will move to deliver on a number of the report’s recommendations in the short term, including:

• Install a red light/ speed camera inbound and outbound on Stuart Highway near Henning Road – aimed to be operational in July 2011;
• Implement Approved Road Train Routes in the Greater Darwin Area;
• Implement 80km/h speed limit on the Arnhem Highway from the Stuart Highway to the start of the current 100km/h zone near the Humpty Doo Hotel; and
• Raising awareness about sharing the road with heavy vehicles.

Mr McCarthy said the Government is carefully considering all 29 recommendations in the report

“The Heavy Vehicle Industry has invested a great deal of time and support in developing this report, and its recommendations will help shape Government’s decisions about heavy vehicles access on our road network in to the future,” he said.

“I thank all of the Taskforce members, and those in the industry and community who contributed their ideas to this process.”

To read the report, visit www.safeterritory.nt.gov.au.

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