Fatigue issues for truck drivers are the focus of planned upgrades to numerous truck parking bays on major Territory highways.

Work is set to begin next year for new or upgraded bays located on the Lasseter Highway, Tanami Road and the Plenty Highway under road safety and fatigue management improvements.

Minister for Transport Peter Styles said safety was the number one issue for all motorists and truck drivers and it was vital these upgrades were made.

“These are the primary roads linking the NT to Yulara, Queensland and Western Australia,” Mr Styles said.

“The bays will improve the efficiency of the trucking industry as they will provide a safe parking facility at regular intervals and reduce driver fatigue.

“The work will involve construction of acceleration and deceleration lanes, entry and exit to the parking bay, sealing work, improvement of drainage and installation of signage.

“The parking bays will be 120 metres long and will see up to six road trains at a time.”

Mr Styles said the Lasseter Highway currently had two existing unsealed truck parking bays, which would be upgraded, providing better designed parking bays for heavy vehicles.

“The Lasseter Highway is a major freight link to Yulara, Docker River and Western Australia and services five major communities in the NT and WA, as well as three stations,” he said.

“As there are no existing formal truck bays on the Plenty Highway, drivers currently have to travel 750km with no rest stop for heavy vehicles except where they may stop at the side of a road. A new truck parking bay will be constructed near Arapunya Road intersection on Plenty Highway.

“This new bay will be a vital upgrade to this highway.

“The works will also see the Tanami Road upgraded with truck parking bays near the Kintore Road intersection.

“The Tanami Road is frequently used by heavy vehicles travelling west through to Kintore and gold mines in Western Australia, and by heavy vehicles servicing Territory communities Papunya and Yuendumu.”

The works will be funded by the Australian Government and the NT Government

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