The Northern Territory Government has moved to address noise complaints by banning the sale of Salutes and other fireworks with a sound level of over 115 decibels, in time for Territory Day 2014. The ban on very loud fireworks has been gazetted by NT WorkSafe.

Territory Day, held on July 1, celebrates the anniversary of Northern Territory self-government and one of the key features of the celebrations is the availability of fireworks for purchase and use by members of the public.

The Northern Territory is the only jurisdiction in Australia where this occurs, however the legal sale and use is restricted to Territory Day.

“Fireworks are synonymous with Territory Day,” said Deputy Chief Minister David Tollner. “Countless Territorians have grown up celebrating with fireworks, however there have been increasing calls over the years to ban them due to the inconsiderate actions a few.

“While it is accepted that the evenings of Territory Day are noisy with Territorians celebrating with fireworks, an inconsiderate minority abuse the privilege by illegally storing and letting off fireworks throughout the year, usually late at night or in the early morning.

“Over the years, the Government has implemented a number of measures to reduce the illegal use of fireworks and I hope the latest measure will decrease the disruption caused when fireworks are illegally used and enables fireworks to remain a part of Territory Day celebrations for years to come.”