On 1 February 2014, the Northern Territory Government began an open-speed limit trial on the Stuart Highway. Following this initial twelve month period, the Northern Territory Government’s Department of Transport will now undertake a review of the trial to determine its success and future viability. In the meantime, the open speed limit conditions will remain in place.

The review will include an analysis of the following elements:

- vehicle number, type and speed;
- vehicle crash data; and
- enforcement data.

The Department of Transport has undertaken a road user survey to gain an understanding of the experiences of road users and their views on the investment made to improve road safety along the trial section of the road.

Minister for Transport, Matt Conlan, said that while data analysis is still being finalised for the last quarter, road users have generally behaved very well during the trial period.

“It was pleasing to see that Territorians have acted responsibly with the open speed limits trial. A review process will now be undertaken so Government can assess all facets of the trial,” Mr Conlan said.

“The Territory Government will wait to see the review before we make any decisions about making the open speed limit zones permanent or looking at other locations for open speed limits.”

The open speed limit trial applies to a 204 kilometre stretch of road, starting 37 kilometres south of Barrow Creek extending to 10 kilometres north of Alice Springs. An extension was added to include a 72 kilometre stretch of road between the Ali Curung Rail Overpass to just north of Barrow Creek.

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