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Multilingual road signs trialled in Darwin region

Roads signs in foreign languages have been erected in the Darwin Region, in conjunction with a similar trial underway in Central Australia.

A series of multilingual signs are also being erected on major tourist roads in Central Australia, targeting German, Japanese and Italian tourists, highlighting fatigue, gravel roads and the need to wear seatbelts.

The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Kon Vatskalis, said he wanted a similar trial to take place in the Darwin Region to compare the results.

"This is about saving lives, and we will do everything we can to ensure our road safety messages get through to as many motorists as possible," Mr Vatskalis said.

"In the Darwin Region, we will be using the same foreign languages used in the Central Region to send out one simple but life-saving message we need to get through to international visitors – wear a seatbelt.

"Between 1998 and 2002, an average of 37% of drivers and passengers killed in the Territory were not wearing seatbelts. Around 7% of those killed were international visitors."

Mr Vatskalis said three signs have been put up on Top End roads including:

- Stuart Highway, south of Adelaide River
- Stuart Highway, south of Noonamah
- Arnhem Highway, start of unrestricted zone

The Minister said the signs would be trialled for a 12-month period, in conjunction with those erected around Central Australia.

"If we can see a significant improvement on our roads and these signs start saving lives, we will definitely be looking to extend the program to other areas of the Territory where they might be needed."