Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Kon Vatskalis today thanked all parties that have contributed to the discussion paper on reforms to the Territory’s turbulent commercial passenger vehicle industry.

The submissions acknowledge the mess the industry was left in through the open slather deregulation of the previous government.

"The thrust of comments to date are supportive of Government’s efforts in addressing what is a difficult area of industry reform - which the industry acknowledges is well overdue for reform," said Minister Vatskalis.

"Industry parties have recognised that we are taking the first step in the reform process with many issues to be addressed.

There is acknowledgement of the benefits that would flow from increased self-regulation of the industry through a Commercial Passenger Vehicle (CPV) Board consisting of industry and consumer representatives.

Minister Vatskalis said there is widespread acceptance that the first priority of the reform should be to greatly improve service standards for consumers, reflected in the overwhelming support for the need to improve driver training.

A longer-term objective of the reform process is to ensure a viable high quality industry.

"Areas of disagreement are apparent in the submissions and we will be working towards consensus as much as possible, and in the longer term industry issues will be resolved by the Commercial Passenger Vehicle Board.

"I didn’t expect the industry to be 100 per cent in agreement with the Discussion Paper," said Minister Vatskalis.

"However, I am pleased to note that the submissions appear to be moving the industry towards a higher level of consensus than currently applies."

"Prior to the discussion paper the industry could have been described as 25% agreement, 75 % disagreement, however submissions to the Discussion Paper suggest that these ratios may be reversed," said Minister Vatskalis.