The Government's commitment to implement law reform to tackle rising public liability costs in the Territory, is ahead of schedule with the introduction today of amendments to the Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act.

"I am pleased the first in a raft of law reform in response to the public liability problem has been introduced to the Territory Parliament today, a month ahead of schedule," Dr Toyne said.

"Legislative reform tops the Government's public liability agenda. The introduction of these reforms today, a month ahead of schedule, highlights the Government's diligence in taking real action, and developing real solutions to this national problem."

The Chief Minister detailed in June a raft of measures targeting rising public liability costs in the Territory, with the law reform component initially scheduled to reach Parliament by October this year.

The Amendments to the Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act introduced today are closely modelled on changes to the Commonwealth's Trade Practices Act.

"The changes will assist providers of risky recreational activities, by permitting them to require, as a condition of providing the activity, a participant to waive their right to sue, for death and personal injury, which might result from undertaking the activity."

Dr Toyne said the amendments permit consumers and providers to reach a legal agreement on which the service is being supplied. The Territory amendments depart from the Commonwealth model in that it requires the consumer is aware of the risks and potential consequences if things do go wrong.

"The Territory's amendments provide for continued protection of consumer rights, under our combined Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act."

"The Government believes these amendments strike a balance between protecting consumers and allowing them to take responsibility for themselves, while also assisting providers of risky activities in dealing with public liability insurance," Dr Toyne said.

On implementation of the proposed changes the Government will closely monitor the development and application of the waivers to ensure the balance continues to be achieved.

The Government will consider amendments to the Bill before it is debated in October to include any developments in relation to the Commonwealth's Trades Practices Amendment (Liability for Recreational Services) Bill 2002 or legislative developments in other jurisdictions.