The Northern Territory Government today confirmed changes to the regulation of the default speed limit for Territory roads.

Transport Minister Dr Chris Burns said the responsibility for setting default speed limits in built-up areas will reside with local authorities.

“Unless otherwise determined, the default speed limit across the Territory will remain at 60kph,” Dr Burns said.

“The councils have detailed knowledge of local road conditions, and set speed limits on council roads.

“For example, the Darwin City Council has imposed a 40kph limit on Mitchell Street, while the Alice Springs Town Council has a 50kph limit on Lyndavale Drive.

“They are now being granted the right to set the default speed limit within their boundaries.”

The amendment to the Traffic Regulations, which will apply from 1 July, 2004, reads:

- (1A) The default speed limit referred to in rule 25(2) does not apply in the Territory.
- (1B) Subject to subregulation (1C), the default speed-limit applying to a driver for a length of road in a built-up area within the Territory is 60 kilometres per hour.
- (1C) On application by a local government authority, the Minister may specify by notice in the Gazette that the default speed-limit applying to a driver for a length of road in a built-up area within the local government area is 50 kilometres per hour.

Dr Burns said the Government would assist councils with funding for appropriate road signage.

There will continue to be no speed restrictions outside built-up areas, unless otherwise signed.