The Shadow Minister for Transport, Dr Richard Lim, has again shown his ignorance with his latest comments relating to next year’s introduction of the 50-kilometre default national urban speed limit around the Territory.

The Minister for Transport, Kon Vatskalis, today said Dr Lim has nothing positive to contribute to this important road safety issue.

"Dr Lim has simply got it wrong, and has again shown Territorians he doesn’t do his homework," Mr Vatskalis said.

"The Shadow Minister claims there has been a lack of consultation on this issue – where has he been for the past 18 months?"

The Minister said the Government began seeking comment on the proposal to lower the Territory’s urban speed limit at the start of 2002, and received a number of submissions from various stakeholders including –

- LGANT
- Regional Councils
- Road Safety Council
- NT Police
- AANT
- TIO
- Driver Training and Licensing
- Drivers Instructors Association NT
- Taxi Council of the NT
- Australian Trucking Association NT

Submissions were also received from members of the public and members of parliament.

"We even received a submission from the Member for Port Darwin, Sue Carter, but it seems Dr Lim was too lazy to contribute to the debate," Mr Vatskalis said.

"The proposal also received extensive coverage in the Northern Territory News and Centralian Advocate.

"Dr Lim claims ‘statistics show that most road fatalities occur on arterial and feeder roads not small suburban streets’.

"Yet a response from the Darwin City Council Technical Services Department showed over the past 11 years, 43% of the 13000 accidents occurred on urban streets."
"It's time for Dr Lim to wake up, and start dealing with fact rather than his own fiction.

"This Government is working for all Territorians. Introducing a uniform urban speed limit is a sensible decision which will ensure families will feel safe in their communities - children can safely ride their bikes to school and our elderly can feel secure crossing the road."

Mr Vatskalis said the new reduced speed limit will be introduced on 1 March 2004 following a public education campaign.