Leader of Government Business Delia Lawrie, outlined the busy and important legislative program in today’s parliament.

The Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Family and Community Services Marion Scrymgour, will debate the Care and Protection of Children Bill.

The legislation will overhaul the Community Welfare Act which has not been reformed in over 20 years.

“It is about protecting children and once passed it will be one of the most important pieces of legislation in the Northern Territory,” Ms Lawrie said.

“The new legislation has been subject to extensive consultation and will make the Northern Territory’s child protection laws and processes contemporary and best practice.”

The Water Amendment Bill will also be debated and two new pieces of legislation were introduced.

“As Minister for Lands and Planning I introduced amendments to the Planning Act that will help cut red tape for minor developments.

“These amendments will save people time and money so they can get on with making changes to their home or business,” Ms Lawrie said.

As previously flagged the new drug driving bill will also be introduced as part of the NT Government’s road safety reforms.

Under the legislation police will only be permitted to test people in cases of unexplained driving behaviour or after an accident.

“People under the influence of drugs should not be driving cars and this legislation helps make our roads safer,” said Ms Lawrie.

At the request of the trucking industry, truck drivers can be randomly tested by police.

The changes were recommended by the Road Safety Taskforce to help reduce trauma.

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