New Laws to boost Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods

The Northern Territory Government today introduced new laws that will boost the safety of dangerous goods transported on Territory roads and railway.

The Attorney-General, Delia Lawrie, said the Dangerous Goods By Road and Rail (National Uniform Legislation Bill is part of the nationalisation of laws governing the transport of dangerous goods.

“The uniform national laws will ensure that dangerous goods transported in the Territory can be carried seamlessly and safely across state borders,” Ms Lawrie said.

“These new laws will increase the safety of those working in the transport industry, other motorists on the road as well as help to prevent serious incidents and spillages during the transport of dangerous and volatile substances.

“Dangerous goods laws regulate the transport of flammable, toxic, corrosive, gaseous, infectious substances which pose a significant risk to people and the environment.

“Businesses and transport companies that don’t meet the new national standards will face significant penalties under the new Australian code.”

Ms Lawrie said under the Bill, WorkSafe NT will continue to have day-to-day responsibility for the regulation of dangerous goods in the Territory.

“The Bill also contains wider powers for authorised officers including the power to stop and search vehicles, search premises and seize documentation, records and equipment as well obtain search warrants where a suspected offence or dangerous situation may occur,” she said.

“NT WorkSafe will provide education and information to smaller Territory operators about the new compliance requirements. Operators will have three months after the start of the new laws to comply with the new national standards.”

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