Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says that it would be wrong for the government to drop open speed limits based on the statistics shown in its own NT Road safety report.

The report states in Table 9 (page 85) that over the last 6 years there were 19 fatalities and 113 injuries on unlimited speed limited roads.

What is not shown from those statistics is where did those fatalities and injuries occur ie were they on gravel roads, narrow bitumen roads (Carpentaria and Tablelands Highways) or wider roads such as the Stuart, Barkly or Victoria Highways?

There is also no indication whether speed was the only contributing factor or were there other matters such as alcohol, fatigue or the non-wearing of seatbelts.

Gerry says it would make sense to put speed limits on gravel roads and bitumen roads that do not come up to the standard of the Stuart Highway but the government needs to show the death and injury statistics for the major highways (Stuart, Barkly, Victoria and Arnhem) before it can make a blanket recommendation to reduce the speed limit on all open roads to 110km/hr.

Gerry says that the report does not show those statistics and he says that until such time as those statistics can show that there is a problem with the open speed limit on our major highways then the speed limit should stay as it is.