



17 January 2014

The Hon Adam Giles MLA

Chief Minister

GPO Box 3146

DARWIN NT 0801

Via Email: Chief.Minister@nt.gov.au

Dear Chief Minister,

Re: Proposed open speed limit trial in the Northern Territory

The undersigned, on behalf of their respective organisations, request the Northern Territory (NT) Government abandon the open speed limit trial scheduled to commence on 1 February 2014 based on the significant dangers it poses to motorists and pedestrians. We have previously provided the NT Government with irrefutable evidence demonstrating the correlation between speed limits and decreased crashes and fatalities (see for example Attachment A). We reiterate the significance of this evidence, and also highlight that:

- Per capita, NT roads are responsible for more road fatalities and major injuries than any other State or Territory;¹
- The NT has poor road conditions as outlined in the Australian Road Assessment Program (AusRAP 2013);² and
- The NT government is not upholding its responsibility as signatory to the National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 (NRSS) which is committed to reducing road trauma.³

¹ 'Northern Territory Road Crash Statistical Summary 2012', http://www.transport.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/33104/NT-Road-Crash-Statistical-Summary-2013-revised.pdf (accessed 7 January 2014).

² 'Aus RAP 2013 Report', http://www.racq.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/132903/AusRAP_Star_Rating_National_Highways_2013.pdf (accessed 7 January 2014).

³ 'National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 Report', http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/safety/national_road_safety_strategy/files/NRSS_2011_2020_15Aug11.pdf (accessed 7 January 2014).

We are also concerned that the NT Government has declined to release the reports it has cited as informing the decision to undertake this trial. We call on the NT Government to release these reports immediately for public scrutiny and comment by responsible authorities.

We stress again that, where Territorians' lives are at stake, taking a measured, long-term and evidence-based approach to the issue of speed limits is essential. We request that the NT Government reviews the relevant evidence and data in a transparent fashion and takes the common-sense step of cancelling the scheduled trial.

For more information, please contact RACP Regional Policy Officer, Kate Rogers: kate.rogers@racp.edu.au or by phone, 03 9927 7721.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Christine Connors, Chair NT Committee Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Dr Stephen Gourley, NT Faculty Chair Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

Dr Patrick Bade, NT Regional Chair, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Dr Robert Parker, NT Vice-President, Australian Medical Association

CC: The Hon Peter Styles, MLA, via email: minister.styles@nt.gov.au

CC: The Hon Robyn Lambley, MLA, via email: minister.lambley@nt.gov.au

CC: The Hon David Tollner, MLA, via email: minister.tollner@nt.gov.au