

# RUNNING RED LIGHTS

## YOUR RISK

At traffic lights you are at risk from drivers who run red lights. Since 2000 there have been 193 crashes attributed to drivers disobeying traffic lights in Darwin alone.

Red light running is high-risk behaviour. Those involved in the resulting side-impact crashes are likely to be seriously injured or killed. In most instances, drivers who run red lights are also speeding – further increasing the risk. In a 24-hour period in November 2005, road sensors indicated that at 11 Darwin intersections, as many as 2613 vehicles were potential red light runners (*NT Report, page 54*).

Since 2000 there have been 193 crashes in Darwin where NT Police concluded the vehicle disobeyed traffic lights. These crashes resulted in four fatalities, 58 serious injuries, 45 people treated at hospital but not admitted, and 15 injured but not seeking treatment.

Current penalties in the NT are low in comparison to the rest of Australia and therefore less of a deterrent. Nationally, running a red light is in the highest category of demerit point penalties (*NT Report, page 95*).

State/territory	Failure to obey red traffic light		Failure to obey yellow traffic light	
	Fine \$	Points	Fine \$	Points
NT	120	n/a	80	n/a
NSW	300	3	300	3
SA	275	3	275	3
ACT	233	3	233	3
Vic	210	3	210	3
Qld	135	3	135	3
WA	120	3	80	3
Tas	110	3	80	3

(*NT Report, table 4: page 55*)

## What should change

- Combined red light and speed cameras, which are widely used in the rest of Australia, should be installed at priority intersections in Darwin. The penalties for failing to obey red and yellow lights should be doubled.