

SPEED LIMITS – INFRINGEMENT DETECTION AND PENALTIES

YOUR RISK | You are at high risk from speeding drivers in the NT – where the chance of being caught and the level of penalties are lower than the rest of the country.

Although some may see speed cameras as a means of revenue-raising, there is strong evidence that they reduce average traffic speeds, crashes and crash injuries.

Northern Territory statistics for October 2005 show 178 speeding fines were issued in a three-day period, with 40% of those exceeding the speed limit by 15 km/h or more (*NT Report, page 24*).

High profile and high visibility policing and well-publicised campaigns, as well as the use of marked patrol cars and speed camera vans, deter speeding and improve safety of other drivers (*NT Report, pages 28 - 29 and 60*).

What should change

- Penalties for speeding should be increased.
- Dedicated Highway and Remote Area Traffic Patrols should be established, with high profile colour and badging on units operating out of Katherine and Alice Springs. Speeding in urban areas should be addressed with the formation of dedicated Traffic Sections in Alice Springs and Darwin.

REPEAT OFFENDERS AND SPEED

YOUR RISK | Too many drivers offend repeatedly. The current penalties are not a deterrent, with 34% of offenders receiving two or more speeding fines.

The NT Report describes the rate of repeat speeding offences in the NT as alarming. Of the 44 276 individuals who were issued with 74 531 speeding fines between 2003 and 2005:

- 8165 were issued with two speeding fines
- 3418 were issued with three speeding fines
- 3227 were issued with between 4 and 10 speeding fines.

A staggering 134 people were issued with 11 or more speeding fines, with the worst speeding offender receiving 47 fines in the three-year period (*NT Report, page 50*).

There is currently no effective system to deter people from re-offending. Research has shown that fines alone, while important, are not an effective means of preventing repeat offenders from driving dangerously.