

7 September 2026

Committee Secretary
Legislative Scrutiny Committee
GPO Box 3721
Darwin NT 0801
LSC@nt.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

FARE SUBMISSION TO THE TRAFFIC LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DRINK AND DRUG DRIVING AND HOONING) BILL 2026

The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Traffic Legislation Amendment (Drink and Drug Driving and Hooning) Bill 2026, which would amend the *Traffic Act 1987*.

FARE is a not-for-profit organisation with a vision for an Australia free from alcohol harms – where communities are healthy and well, and where laws, policies and programs are fair, equitable and just. Working with local communities, people with lived experience of alcohol harm, values-aligned organisations, health professionals, researchers and governments across the nation, we are improving the health and wellbeing of everyone in Australia.

Alcohol remains a significant driver of road trauma in the Northern Territory. Road safety data shows that, between 2014 and 2024, alcohol was the key contributing factor in nearly half of all Northern Territory road deaths and nearly one third of serious injuriesⁱ. Menzies School of Health Research found that, when alcohol was involved, the odds of an accident resulting in death were 65 times higher and the odds of severe injury were three times higherⁱⁱ.

FARE supports measures that improve community safety through drink driving countermeasures, where enforcement is supported by clear public education campaigns. Our position is consistent with the World Health Organisation's SAFER initiative which identifies the advancement and enforcement of drink-driving countermeasures as one of five evidence based alcohol policies to reduce preventable alcohol harmⁱⁱⁱ.

As FARE and other organisations have consistently noted in other submissions to the Committee, a one-week consultation period makes it difficult for community organisations to consider a Bill and provide informed feedback, often requiring resources to be diverted to meet submission deadlines. In this instance, this is compounded by the fact the Explanatory Statement to the Bill does not explain the intended policy outcomes or provide any detail on the effect in practice of changes to the legislation. Adequate consultation time is essential to support meaningful public participation and better policy outcomes.

We thank the Legislative Scrutiny Committee for considering our comments and noting our ongoing concerns about the consultation processes.

We look forward to seeing the outcome of the inquiry. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Aimee.Brownbill@fare.org.au or 02 5104 9316.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Aimee Brownbill
Policy and Research Director

ⁱ Northern Territory Government (2026). Road Safety NT Lives Lost of NT roads. <https://roadsafety.nt.gov.au/research-and-statistics/lives-lost-nt-roads>

ⁱⁱ Clifford, S., Lee, K.K., Ramsamy, R., Christophersen, C., Lamba, T., Dadi, A., Canty, R., Wardle, F. & Wright, C.J.C. (2025). [Pedestrian deaths and serious injuries in the Northern Territory](#). Darwin, Menzies School of Health Research.

ⁱⁱⁱ World Health Organisation (2026). The SAFER initiative. A world free from alcohol related harm. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/SAFER>