



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

12th Assembly

Petition

Registration No.	22
Title	Private sale of fireworks across the Northern Territory
Presented on	15 October 2013
Presented by	Hon Kezia Purick MLA (Member for Goyder)
Referred to	Minister for Business (Hon. David Tollner)
Date referred	15 October 2013
Response due	18 February 2014
Response received	23 January 2014
Response to be presented	11 February 2014

Petition

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH that we are seriously concerned for the safety of children and adults alike along with the pets specifically dogs, cats and horses, of all families regardless of where they live from the distribution and private sale of fireworks. Regrettably, fireworks are lit well beyond the prescribed time frame resulting in ongoing stress, upset and injury to animals. Further, the illegal use of fireworks causes bush fires and urban vehicle fires causing further stress, damage and injury to animals, people and property.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT the Northern Territory Government amends legislation to cease the private sale of fireworks across the Northern Territory.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY.

Response

Thank you for your letter dated 6 October 2013 requesting a response to Petition No. 22 (read in the Legislative Assembly on 15 October 2013) seeking amendment of legislation to cease the private sale of fireworks across the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory is the only jurisdiction in Australia where private possession and ignition of fireworks is permitted. Territory Day is an important celebration and it is highly valued by most Territorians.

NT WorkSafe has proposed amendments to the Dangerous Goods Regulations as a result of feedback from the Competent Authority and other parties such as the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services. The proposed amendments include:

- a ban on pyrotechnic items that produce a loud report
- provisions to allow the Competent Authority to cancel or suspend a licence if the applicant is found guilty of an offence in another jurisdiction
- an increase in penalties for infringement notices.

Further, NT WorkSafe is reviewing the conditions placed on wholesale licence holders to monitor the import and export of fireworks in the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory Government will continue to work to reduce the level of general disturbance to the community caused by the improper or unsafe use of fireworks.