Minister for Central Australia Matt Conlan will officially open the 54th Alice Springs Show at Blatherskite Park today.

“The Alice Show is an important community event for Central Australia,” Mr Conlan said.

“It’s the one time of the year where the whole community comes together to have fun with the kids and celebrate the very best of the region.

“Whether they are from town, remote communities or the many stations in the region, families can make the most our great lifestyle while enjoying the many rides, attractions, food, agriculture, arts and crafts, animals and local talent on display.

“The show attracts more than 18,000 people over the two days of the event which is a pretty amazing considering the population of Alice Springs.

“The show seems to get bigger and better every year and this year I’m pleased to see record numbers of entrants in the annual Campdraft which will also feature a rodeo for the first time.

“The Alice Springs Show is also important to the Central Australian beef industry, with competitions to encourage high standards.

“Another highlight this year is the Grand Parade on Friday from 2:30pm at the Main Oval, where the audience can get a taste of the show in one hit with champion bulls, equestrian competitors and Ute Muster participants.

“I also look forward to presenting the awards for the Riding for the Disabled events after the parade as well as presenting the organisation with a $3000 cheque after they recently won the Volunteering SA&NT Award for Organisational Excellence (Small Organisation).

“Riding for the Disabled provides horse riding and horse husbandry for riders with disability or those from disadvantaged backgrounds.”

The Alice Springs Show runs over two days from Friday 5 July to Saturday 6 July. Gates open at 8:30am each day with a fireworks show at 7pm on the Saturday to close the event.

The Northern Territory Government provides $150,000 each year to the NT Show Council to distribute between all the Show Societies. The grant assists with the operation of the five major shows in the Territory; Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Borroloola.

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