Pacific Neighbours Gear Up For Arafura Games

Minister for Sport and Recreation Karl Hampton today met with heads of delegation of the member countries from across the Pacific at the Arafura Games Regional Heads of Delegation meeting in Noumea, New Caledonia.

“The anticipation is building among officials from New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the Oceania National Olympic Committee in preparation for the 2011 Arafura Games,” Mr Hampton said.

“With six months to go until the 2011 Arafura Games it is fantastic to meet with member countries.

“I also had the opportunity to meet with Mr Jean Claude Briault, New Caledonia’s Sports Minister.”

Also known as the ‘Chef De Mission’, the Arafura Games Heads of Delegation is made up of delegates representing member countries from the Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific region and act as an advisory group for the Arafura Games.

The meetings, briefing and planning sessions took place in the Latin Quarter of the Capital Noumeau at the New Caledonia Olympic Committee Office.

“The large contingent of French-speaking ‘Caledonie’ were a hit at the 2009 Games with their striking red uniforms and it is a privilege to be able to visit their beautiful country promoting the event,” Mr Hampton said.

“Nations like New Caledonia are what make the Arafura Games such a successful event, pumping more than $5 million into the Territory Economy and strengthening business ties across the region,” Mr Hampton said.

“Territorians love their sport, and the games provide a great spectacle for fans while giving our emerging athletes a taste of elite competition.

“The Territory Government is committed to promoting, building and growing the games overseas even further.”

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