MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

HIDDEN VALLEY TO UNDERGO MAJOR UPGRADES

5 May 2013

Minister for Sport and Recreation Matt Conlan has announced the Hidden Valley race track in Darwin will undergo a multi-million dollar revamp as part of the May Budget.

Mr Matt Conlan said $9.42 million will be invested in upgrades to the track over the next two years while attending today’s Holden HQ 2013 National Titles at Hidden Valley.

“Territorians are mad about motor sport and these upgrades will ensure Hidden Valley remains in peak condition so Darwin can continue to host national events like the V8 Supercars, the Australian Superbikes Championships and this weekend’s HQ Nationals for many years to come,” Mr Conlan said.

“Events like the V8 Supercars have multiple flow-on effects to tourism, local businesses and the economy – not to mention they are a great day out for the entire family.

“Last year’s V8 Supercars attracted 48,000 local and interstate visitors and injected 32 million into the Northern Territory economy.

“Territorians love to enjoy sporting events and our great outdoors and this investment will enhance our unique lifestyle and ensure it remains the best in Australia.”

More than $5 million has been allocated for Hidden Valley in the 2013-14 Budget for:

- resurfacing the track circuit (2.9km) and;
- upgrading concrete barriers to meet the national standards required to host national and regional motor sporting events

An additional $4.12 million will be provided in 2014-15 to upgrade sewerage, toilet blocks and drainage and redesign Turn One of the Hidden Valley circuit.

With higher profile events the safety requirements increase so the redesign of Turn One will ensure the Territory doesn’t miss out on these events while improving the safety of drivers in the V8s and regional motor sport meets.

The circuit surface at Hidden Valley deteriorates over time as a result of general usage and the extreme weather conditions and has not been upgraded since its construction in 1997.
“The normal life span of a track is 10 years, so 16 years on these upgrades are long overdue,” Mr Conlan said.

The quality of the circuit is a consideration for the Licencing of the complex by the Confederation of Australian Motorsports (CAMS). Without the Licence most of the major events at Hidden Valley could not take place.

These upgrades will ensure the track remains in top condition and meets licencing standards.

The Northern Territory Government has secured a V8 Supercars event in Darwin until 2018.

It’s expected the upgrades will begin mid-2014.

Media contacts:
Lisa Andrews 0401 579 963