The fastest and most exciting drag racers from Australia and around the world could soon be headed to the Centre after the completion of major upgrades to the Alice Springs Inland Dragway.

The race track has been brought up to Australian National Drag Racing (ANDRA) international race standards after the Central Australian Drag Racing Association (CADRA) received a $500,000 grant from the Country Liberals Government last year.

“The new look drag strip looks fantastic and will attract racers and spectators from around the country,” said Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing Matt Conlan, who inspected the revamped track this week.

“The new upgrades will help CADRA stage regular national championship events which provide a significant boost to tourism numbers and the economy in Alice Springs.

“It could see Alice Springs Inland Dragway become a permanent venue for national and international racing and an annual stop on the national circuit of ANDRA Drag Racing, similar to the annual V8 Supercars series race held in Darwin.

“The Centre has been neglected in the past, but the Country Liberals Government is determined to grow our region and drag racing provides great economic as well as social benefits to our community.”

“The upgrades to the Dragway include the extension of the concrete safety barriers alongside the quarter mile strip as well as the extension of the sealed primary braking area with “hot mix” for 110 meters to allow for 1/8th mile “Group I” racing.”

Stage two of the project will see a further grant of $300,000 to install energy efficient LED night lighting alongside the drag strip.

“The new barrier wall and braking area means the Alice Springs Inland Dragway can now qualify to race the fastest, most powerful drag race vehicles in Australia such as ‘Top Fuel’, ‘Top Door Slammer and ‘Top Bike’ and ‘Pro Stock,” said CADRA President Ray Baney.

“These are racers that the people of Alice Springs have not been able to see locally before so it is a very exciting time for our sport.

“The new track lighting will finally allow CADRA to drag race at night, making the events more enjoyable for our spectators, racers, and volunteers alike. It will be a welcome change after many years spent racing in the burning daytime heat. We’re thrilled with the upgrades so far and would like to thank the NT Government and our sponsors for their support.”

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