Adam Giles  
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Matt Conlan  
Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing

**Major upgrades begin at Hidden Valley**

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The first stage of the Territory Government’s $9.6 million upgrade to the Hidden Valley racetrack in Darwin is underway.

“Resurfacing the track is the first step in securing the long-term future of major events like the V8 Supercars,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“Motorsport is extremely popular in the Top End and these upgrades will ensure Hidden Valley remains in peak condition so Darwin can continue to host national events like the V8 Supercars for many years to come.

“The V8 Supercars are secured at Hidden Valley until 2018 and these major upgrades will assist with our current talks to extend that contract even further.

“The Supercars have important flow-on effects to tourism, local businesses and the economy. This year’s V8’s event attracted more than 40,000 local and interstate visitors and injected $16 million into the economy.

“Ensuring Hidden Valley remains a first-class facility will also assist our plan to establish Northern Australia as a top class sporting destination and attract even more major events here.

“Territorians love sport and this investment will enhance our unique lifestyle, ensuring it remains the best in Australia.”

The upgrades to the facility include $5.47 million for:

- Resurfacing the track circuit (2.9km);
- New fencing, pit wall gates, pit garage upgrades and re-sealing of pit paddock;
- Replacement of the tyre walls at the complex with concrete barriers as per Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS) requirements, which was completed before this year’s V8 Supercar round in June.
An additional $4.27 million will be provided by the Territory Government for further upgrades in 2014-15 to upgrade sewerage, toilet blocks and drainage and redesign Turn One of the Hidden Valley circuit.

Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing Matt Conlan said the upgrades were long overdue with no major upgrades to the surface of the track since it was constructed in 1997.

“After plenty of wear and tear and weathering of Darwin’s tropical conditions for 16 years, the surface of the Hidden Valley racetrack is more than ready for some TLC,” he said.

“The complete resurfacing of the track, as well as the safety and facility upgrades will ensure Hidden Valley, remains a venue of choice for national motor sports events and continues to be an asset to the Northern Territory.”

The Hidden Valley complex is highly regarded in motorsports circles and in addition to the V8 Supercars is also used to host other large scale motor sport events, including the Australian National Drag Racing Association championships and regular race events held by local motor sports clubs.

Local Territory company, Downer Group, is the contractor undertaking the current resurfacing works at the facility.

The track will be closed for the duration of the resurfacing works and is scheduled to reopen in mid-October when the upgrades are expected to be completed.

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