30 June, 2005

V8 SUPERCARS BACK FOR BUSINESS

Officially welcoming the V8 convoy into Darwin city today, Chief Minister, Clare Martin, said that up to 40,000 people are expected to attend the three days of racing when the Supercars return to Hidden Valley.

Ms Martin, said that a record number of corporate tickets (5,300) have also been sold for the event which runs from 1 - 3 July.

“This is the eighth time the V8’s have been held at Hidden Valley and they have become a very important part of our social and sporting calendar,” she said.

“It’s that great time of year again when the weather cools down, Darwin comes alive and the local economy receives an important boost.

“More importantly though, Territorians love this great event and that’s why my Government has secured a deal to host the V8s until 2012.”

Ms Martin said the long-term contract with AVESCO is part of her Government's commitment to attracting and keeping high-quality sporting events.

“We are proud of our great lifestyle and there is no doubt the V8 Supercars event has firmly established itself as an integral part of that,” she said.

“Significantly, there is barely a room left in Darwin with the V8s attracting tourists and generating national and international media exposure like no other event.

“The V8’s are estimated to be worth more than $5 million a year to the Territory economy but it also promotes a sense of excitement and pride among the thousands of Territorians that take part.”

Ms Martin again thanked SKYCITY for their support as major sponsor.

“My Government recently also made new commitments totalling $3.79 million over four years to improve and expand facilities at Hidden Valley,” she said.

“Those facilities will be a boost to motor sports fans in and beyond the Northern Territory and include $1.9 million for eight additional pit garages and vital remedial works at the motor sports complex.

“The V8s are great fun and will only get better – I hope we record a record crowd this year and that Territorians turn out in force to enjoy this wonderful event.”

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