$1bn railway to Darwin

Enduring splits open in Coalition

Thorpedo gives $12,500 to charity . . . SOCOG gives him a serve

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Nicole Jeffrey

Ian Thorpe handed over $12,500 of his world record bonus at 11am in Sydney yesterday, smiling as he helped one of his favourite charities.

But behind the grin lay a trail of intense early-morning negotiations between Team Thorpe and SOCOG organizers, who were determined to bring the champions on Wednesday. Thorpe spoke publicly for the first time about the latest fracas, echoing the thoughts of many other leading athletes.

SOCOG's intervention, Thorpe, who has a broken ankle following a run