Chief Minister Waves Off World Solar Cars

Chief Minister Clare Martin today waved off competitors in the World Solar Challenge at the start of the race outside Parliament House in Darwin.

The Chief Minister wished competitors all the best as they headed for Adelaide in the 20th anniversary, and ninth running of the solar challenge, which was first held in 1987.

“As always we extend the warmest welcome from Territorians to the competitors and wish them a swift and safe journey,” Ms Martin said.

“The race is a great event in itself and is also instrumental in fast-tracking the development of environmentally friendly technology.

“This technology is becoming more important as the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change becomes more pressing.”

The Panasonic World Solar Car Challenge has attracted as many as 58 racers across its classes from up to 19 countries. The event has three different categories – with two classes of solar cars and another for cars with new fuel efficient technologies.

Ms Martin said the Northern Territory Government was a strong supporter of the event, providing $180,000 for sponsorship, promotion and community events.

“This includes ensuring communities along the route, Territory schoolchildren, the tourism industry and other stakeholders get maximum benefit from the race,” she said.

“The race attracts hundred of people to Darwin and the Territory and provides an opportunity to show off our unique environment and tourism potential.

“The race showcases the Territory, and South Australia, as the cars make their way along the more than 3,000 kilometre route from Darwin to Adelaide.

“I’d urge Territorians and Australians to enjoy the spectacle, and if you’re travelling along the Stuart Highway keep an eye out for the competitors.”

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