Minister for Young Territorians, Peter Styles, welcomed more than 600 competitors and support crews to the first national lifesaving championships to be held in the Northern Territory.

“What an amazing sight to see so many people at Mindil ready to compete in a sport that does so much for community safety,” Mr Styles said when opening the four-day championships.

“We see lifesavers watching and patrolling Australian beaches, but we don’t see the huge amount of training and dedication that goes into their ability to carry out their job in often testing conditions.

“I congratulate everyone involved in the sport and wish you all the best for an exciting four days of competition, it is a great opportunity to test your skills at the top level and meet fellow lifesavers from around Australia.

“The Territory Government is pleased to have contributed $50,000 towards the event and has also helped out through the police who have just handed over a 5.2 metre rigid hull inflatable boat.

“It is a timely presentation with the lifesavers now able to be put the boat into use in the competition.”

Acting Police Commissioner Shayne Maines said Surf Lifesaving NT was a valuable community service and an additional inflatable would increase the capability and enhance water safety for Territorians and visitors.

“Surf Lifesaving will put it to excellent use for community work, including lifesaving patrols, water safety for aquatic events, emergency response and boating education.

“As a non-profit organisation Surf Lifesaving NT does valuable work for the community and provides assistance to the police by providing training, equipment and volunteers.”

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