

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### ***Denyer primed for Townsville's first V8 Supercar race***

AUSTRALIAN television personality and V8 Supercar driver Grant Denyer is looking forward to the opportunity of flooring his 300km/h Ford V8 down the home straight of a new Townsville circuit.

Mr Denyer is the latest celebrity to get behind the wheel and support Townsville's bid to host a V8 Supercar event, which is proposed to commence in mid 2009 on a track encompassing sections of Boundary Road and Reid Park.

The former weatherman for Channel 7 morning program Sunrise has visited Townsville on several occasions and believes a V8 Supercar event in the region will be a success on many levels.

Mr Denyer's support follows the recent announcement by the Labour party that it will provide the final \$10 million needed to fund the Reid Park redevelopment if elected this month. Liberal MP Peter Lindsay also voiced his commitment to finding the necessary funds after being convinced of the various community benefits following this year's Gold Coast Indy.

"North Queensland has been starved of live V8 Supercars yet has one of the healthiest fan bases in the country. It makes perfect sense considering the magic location and economic boom the event brings," Mr Denyer said.

"I've met some seriously passionate fans on my travels around North Queensland and as drivers, they're the places we love to race and put on the best door banging show we can. We feed off it.

"The Cowboys rugby league team has done wonders for putting the place on the map but you ain't seen nothing yet. A V8 Supercar race is more than an event, when done Townsville-style, it's a whole carnival and millions will see the city at its best.

"Whether you're a car enthusiast or not, Supercar events offer a whole host of activities that will make it a world class spectacle which Townsville can be proud of. A real must see experience that boosts the city."



Mr Denyer, who drove for and lists Australian driving legend Dick Johnson as his racing hero, said V8 Supercars Australia was among the most professional of sporting organisations and took its community, social and environmental responsibilities very seriously.

Australian racing legend Johnson recently agreed to become an ambassador for Townsville's V8 Supercar bid. Johnson joins V8 Supercar Australia organisers, prominent entertainment identities and Townsville business, cultural and tourism leaders in the push to secure the highly lucrative event.

Community support has also ramped up in recent months with three separate petitions recording thousands of signatures Australia wide. This includes a highly popular poll on the V8 Supercar website and an email petition by Townsville Enterprise, which has attracted 890 votes – however the true level of support is believed to be much higher as many individual votes were made on behalf of couples or families of as many as five people.

**ENDS**

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