

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### ***Green light for \$41m V8 Supercar and events precinct***

TOWNSVILLE Enterprise is gearing up to develop detailed plans for a V8 Supercar and multi-purpose events precinct.

This comes after Prime Minister John Howard today announced he would match a Labor Party commitment to partially fund the precinct.

Townsville Enterprise chief executive officer Glenys Schuntner congratulated both sides of Federal Government for their vision and support after Mr Howard and Federal Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd promised to provide the final \$10 million needed to build the \$41 million precinct in Townsville.

While visiting Townsville Mr Howard announced that the Liberal Party would commit the funding if re-elected this month. This followed the Labor party announcing its own \$10 million commitment for the project on October 24.

A total of \$31.7 million had already been contributed by the State Government, Townsville City Council, Townsville Enterprise and local businesses.

Under the proposal, the V8 Supercar track and supporting facilities such as a multi-purpose events building, pit garages, parklands, spectator mounds and walkways will be developed around Railway Estate's Boundary Street and Reid Park. Additional leisure facilities are likely to be considered during a number of community consultations.

Ms Schuntner said the confirmation of funding by both sides of Government was a huge milestone for Townsville.

"We congratulate both sides of Government on understanding the importance of hosting such a signature annual event in Townsville. It is one which will benefit the wider North Queensland region to no end," Ms Schuntner said.

"A lot of people have worked tirelessly in lobbying for Townsville's own V8 Supercar event. To their credit both Peter Lindsay and George Colbran have listened carefully to what we and the public have said all along.

"The benefits of hosting this sport and securing this infrastructure will be enormous for our residents, our economy, our tourism market and our city's brand nationally and internationally.



“Not only is this an event that will draw thousands of new visitors to our region, it is also an event that all residents of North Queensland can add to their calendars and take the whole family to see. It’s also about civic pride and providing more entertainment for our residents.

“There are still a lot of steps and hard work to come before Townsville hosts its first race, but this is no doubt a big leap in the right direction.”

Ms Schuntner saved special praise for Townsville Enterprise Director and V8 Steering Committee chairman Tony Ireland who, for the past few years, had taken on the lead responsibility of lobbying for the event.

“Tony’s efforts have been enormous and it would be hard to say if these commitments would have occurred if he wasn’t driving the campaign,” she said.

“As a long term resident, community advocate and business leader Tony completely understands the importance of such a world-class event for Townsville. Paul Travis, Deputy Chairman of the Cowboys has also provided extensive and invaluable support for which we are extremely grateful.”

Statistics provided by V8 Supercars Australia show the Townsville event can expect to hit television screens across the world.

Ms Schuntner believes the Townsville V8 Race will be met by very strong crowd support given the region’s impressive track record in supporting all sporting, cultural and musical events.

**ENDS**

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