

## NSW Rally Panel Report to the State Executive – October 2016

### **Events**

#### ***NSWRC/DRS***

Both the NSWRC and DRS has lost another two rounds due to wet weather – Bathurst Rally (September) and Brindabella Stages (October) were both cancelled.

As a result, the NSWRC will be four rounds in total for 2016, with the final round to be run at Rally Australia in mid-November. The DRS will be four rounds in total for 2016 (down from seven), with the final round to be the Minidulla Rally in early November.

#### **Registrations**

Series Registrations for 2016 have exceeded expectations once again, and surpassed the numbers achieved in 2015. As of 12<sup>th</sup> October, registrations are:

### **Rally NSW Promotional Work**

Rally NSW engaged a professional media team to cover the Rally of the Bay (round 3 NSWRC, August 2016). The team produced brilliant results over the event weekend and following weeks, with a number of highly professional, engaging videos being released. The team was engaged on a very small budget for the event, with a view to working with Rally NSW in 2017, provided that more funding is available. Rally NSW is using the outstanding results from the Rally of the Bay media coverage to seek new major sponsors for 2017, with proposals being distributed to a number of potential partners.

### **Organisers & Competitors Forum**

The Panel is organising an informative and interactive forum for organisers and competitors for January 2017. The forum will be held on the day of the 2016 Presentation in Western Sydney. The agenda includes information sessions and sessions designed to encourage feedback and guidance from participants on future areas of focus for the Panel.

### **2016 Presentation**

Is currently being organised for late January/early February.

### **2017 Competition Conditions and Calendar**

Both are attached for the State Executive review and approval.

The 2017 Competition Conditions have not changed significantly from 2016. Summary of key changes:

- Removal of the Pacenote Rally Series
- Changes to Class/Categories, based on Class/Category participation in 2015 and 2016
- Minimum rounds to count increased from 3 to 4, due to increase in total number of rounds on the calendars
- Rallysafe is now compulsory for State level events in 2017

The 2017 is looking strong once again:

- 6 rounds for the NSWRC
- 6 rounds for the DRS (with a seventh possible)
- 7 rounds for the RSS (with an eighth likely)

The Calendar is in draft, ready for first distribution. The calendar has been aligned with other motorsport calendars in NSW to minimise event clashes.

**Frontal Head Restraints**

The Panel is aware that Frontal Head Restraints will become mandatory for all levels of rallying as of 1 January 2018. The Panel is actively working to understand the full scope of this change (e.g. whether it applies to ralliesprints as well as rallies), and is investigating ways the Panel can support the introduction of this change now, to reduce the impact and shock to competitors in 12 months' time.