



**Hon George Souris MP**  
**Minister for Tourism, Major Events**  
**Hospitality and Racing**  
**Minister for the Arts**

**Hon Graham Annesley MP**  
**Minister for Sport and Recreation**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NSW SECURES TOP GEAR FESTIVAL**

Minister for Tourism and Major Events, George Souris, today announced that Sydney has won the right to stage the Top Gear Festival for the next three years.

“The NSW Government, through Destination NSW, successfully bid for this event in conjunction with the Australian Racing Drivers’ Club (ARDC). Sydney will be hosting the popular and high profile festival from 2013 through to 2015,” Mr Souris said.

“The exclusive Australasian staging of Top Gear Festival Sydney will take place at Sydney Motorsport Park, Eastern Creek over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2013, one week prior to the Formula One Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne.

“The Top Gear Festival has been held only twice before, both times in South Africa in 2011 and June of this year.

“This unique motoring festival is based on the internationally renowned Top Gear television programme, which was recently named by Guinness World Records as the world’s most widely watched factual TV show, having been viewed by audiences in 244 different territories around the globe.

“It is yet another example of NSW Government securing major events and ensuring the State remains number one”.

Minister for Sport, Graham Annesley, said: “The Top Gear brand is a worldwide phenomenon and the staging of the Festival in Western Sydney for the next three years will generate countless opportunities for NSW and more importantly local businesses.

“The NSW sports events calendar is fast becoming the benchmark for other states.

“In coming years NSW will host the Bledisloe Festival, Asian Football Cup, the Cricket World Cup, Netball World Cup and now Top Gear.”

Member for Smithfield, Andy Rohan, welcomed the announcement adding: “This is great for NSW, but also for the economy of Western Sydney”.

In Australia the show can be seen first on Foxtel’s BBC Knowledge, and then on the Nine Network and Go!

Destination NSW CEO Sandra Chipchase said: “Top Gear Festival Sydney will generate an additional \$19 million into the NSW economy and attract more than 20,000 interstate and overseas visitors each year.”

Top Gear Festivals boast a unique line-up of cars and driving talent. Hosted by Top Gear presenters, including Jeremy Clarkson and James May, the inaugural event in South Africa featured the Red Bull Racing Formula One Team accompanied by former F1 driver David Coulthard and a host of other legendary drivers, guest presenters and celebrities.

Brand Events Managing Director of Top Gear Festival Australia, Michael Hodgson, said: “Unlike the previous Top Gear Live tours to Australia, the new Festival format we have developed enables visitors to enjoy a full day of outdoor motoring entertainment including world class racing, along with stunts and presenter challenges synonymous with the Top Gear television program.

“For the Sydney event, two circuits will play host to packed schedules of motor racing action as the rest of the park sees precision driving, FMX stunts and jumps, the Off-road Challenge, some of the world’s finest supercars and much more, making this a must attend event for all ‘revheads’ and Top Gear fans.”

ARDC Chief Executive Glenn Matthews said that the selection of Sydney Motorsport Park for Top Gear Festival Sydney shows that the NSW Government’s investment in the refurbishment of the facility has put it on par with the best sporting venues in the country.

“Being selected to host a Top Gear Festival is absolutely fantastic for the ARDC and Sydney Motorsport Park. Together with the NSW Government, we have invested significant time and money in the facility and to have international brands such as Top Gear select us for their event shows it was money well spent,” said Mr Matthews.

“With two race circuits in action, Sydney Motorsport Park will provide the Top Gear team with ideal facilities to put on a show the likes of which has never been seen before in Australia – the excitement here is already building.”

At Top Gear Festival Sydney, visitors can expect to see the very best in motoring including:

- Never before seen motorsport demonstrations, races and challenges
- Prestige and performance automotive displays
- An exhibition featuring lifestyle brands and manufacturers
- Spectator viewing areas and corporate enclosures.