



Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing
Minister for the Arts

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday 16 January, 2013

## TAMWORTH COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Arts, George Souris, is encouraging music lovers and tourists to head to Tamworth to experience and enjoy the 41<sup>st</sup> Tamworth Country Music Festival, beginning this Friday, 18 January.

"The Tamworth Country Music Festival is a major event, featuring many of the nation's top country performers and emerging stars of country music. Now in its 41<sup>st</sup> year, it continues to grow in popularity and reach audiences across Australia and around the world," Mr Souris said.

"This year's festival will feature more than 600 performances at 90 venues across Tamworth."

Mr Souris said the Festival has reported strong ticket sales and a crowd of more than 55,000 is expected to visit Tamworth over the 10-day festival, providing a major economic boost for the region.

Member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson MP, said: "The annual Tamworth Country Music Festival is one of the top 10 festivals in the world, with a terrific range of free and ticketed events."

"There are live country music performances on every street corner, at every pub, club, restaurant and hall and in backyards late at night – the majority of which are free. Tamworth is certainly the place to be for the ten days starting Friday".

Highlights of the 2013 Festival include:

- 41st Country Music Awards of Australia
- Australian Country Music Busking Championships
- FanZone Marquee featuring daily live performances
- Toyota Cavalcade featuring 70 floats, bands and equine groups marching through town

"The Tamworth Country Music Festival injects many millions into the State and local economy. Country music fans travel from across Australia and the world to experience the festival with the majority of festival goers (76 per cent) staying for 8 nights or longer," Mr Anderson said.

Destination NSW has again invested in the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

For more information and to book tickets visit www.tcmf.com.au.