



MEDIA RELEASE

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Sydney Telstra 500 V8 Supercar Series Enters New Era

Minister for Tourism and Major Events, George Souris, today welcomed the Holden and Ford team drivers to Sydney, for the 2012 Telstra 500 V8 Supercar Grand Final Championship and announced that this year's Telstra 500 series would be the last race exclusively between Holden and Ford.

"The Telstra V8 Supercar Series is about to enter a new and exciting era, with AMG Mercedes and Nissan contesting the series from 2013," Mr Souris said.

"This weekend, the Telstra 500 V8 Supercar Championship will see the two major car makers and their drivers compete exclusively against each other for the last time in their battle for supremacy, which makes it a historic moment."

Over three epic days of racing, from Friday 30 November to Sunday 2 December at Sydney Olympic Park, the V8 Supercar heroes will battle it out to decide who will win the final Ford-versus-Holden showdown.

However, the rivalry between the V8 Supercar teams of Mark Winterbottom, Will Davison and Lee Holdsworth (Ford) and Jamie Whincup, Craig Lowndes and James Courtney (Holden) began today with a novel and friendly competition when they competed in a series of unique Sydney harbourside skills tests, as part of the *Sydney Telstra 500 V8 Supercar Challenge on Sydney Harbour*.

This included a *Sydney Tall Mast Ship Climbing Challenge* at Campbell's Cove, an *Oyster Shucking Challenge*, at Opera Kitchen and a *Skipping Challenge*, with Erika Heynatz and Cast Members from *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, at the Sydney Opera House.

"I urge all motorsport fans and their families to visit Sydney Olympic Park to witness a unique moment in Australian motor racing history, for the Sydney Telstra 500 V8 Supercar Grand Final Championship," Mr Souris said.

In addition to the Holden-versus-Ford showdown at the Telstra 500 V8 Supercar Grand Final Championship on Saturday, Aussie Rock legends Jimmy Barnes and guest Diesel will headline the *Championship Rock-Spectacular* in Cathy Freeman Park, while on Saturday and Sunday, *Mack The Transporter* will be joined by his famous friend, *Lightning McQueen*, as the Disney-Pixar *CARS Truck Tour* returns for its final 2012 V8 Supercar stop.