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Sizzling Sevens Set to Singe Austar Park this Weekend

Acting Chief Minister, Delia Lawrie, today welcomed players and coaches from Rugby Sevens powerhouse team the Borneo Eagles ahead of this weekend’s *Hottest 7s in the World* tournament this weekend.

“Territorians love their Sevens and anticipation is building for what is promising to be a fantastic competition,” Ms Lawrie said.

“This weekend sports fans will be treated to the thrills and spills of top class Rugby Sevens action with teams of men and women from across Australia and the world converging on Austar Park at Marrara to vie for big prize money.

“This year a record 40 sides are taking part with the Northern Territory Government providing a record $70,000 in prize money – the biggest prize pool yet.

“Reigning champions, the Borneo Eagles are back to defend their title against big threats from teams like Australia, the ACT Brumbies, South Sea Drifters and the PNG national team who showed excellent form at the Oceania Sevens tournament in Darwin in October.

“The skill and athleticism of Sevens Rugby has made it one of the fastest growing sports in the world, becoming an Olympic sport in 2016.”

Ms Lawrie said the *Hottest Sevens* tournament had established Darwin as a Rugby hub.

“Starting in 1989 as the *Territory Sevens*, the competition was expanded in 2005 to its current form, with this elite tournament steadily growing in profile, popularity and is attracting leading players,” she said.

“The Territory Government’s support and investment in Rugby facilities is paying off with Darwin hosting the Oceania Sevens tournament, the ACT Brumbies Super 15 match next month and the National Indigenous U-18s Rugby tournament in February adding to our sporting calendar.

“I encourage Territorians to come down to Austar Park this weekend and see for themselves one of the world’s most exciting sports at its best.”

Gates open 9am each day and pool games commence at 10am on Saturday with finals to begin at 11am on Sunday. The Croc Trophy final will be played at 8.03 pm on Sunday.

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