



Andrew Barr MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
MINISTER FOR PLANNING
MINISTER FOR TOURISM, SPORT AND RECREATION
MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

MEDIA RELEASE

UNIQUE RUNNING FESTIVAL LAUNCHED FOR ITS SECOND YEAR

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation Andrew Barr today joined running great Robert de Castella to urge elite and recreational runners to participate in next year's Stromlo Running Festival, to be held at Stromlo Forest Park from 19 to 21 February 2010.

The ACT Government is again contributing \$70,000 to the event, which combines elite invitational races, mountain running, fun running, training sessions, guest lectures on health and fitness and social events.

"The Stromlo Running Festival provides a friendly and social weekend, focusing on participation and healthy lifestyles," Mr Barr said. "Many runners stay on-site in the camping and caravanning areas, ensuring a festival atmosphere right across the weekend."

The Festival has been organised by Run For Your Life Pty Ltd and the ACT Cross Country Club, in association with running great Robert de Castella, who trained on the hills around Stromlo during his elite long-distance running career.

"The Festival comprises eight different running events using Stromlo Forest Park's cross country course, as well as the fire trails and tracks within nature parks surrounding the Stromlo area. As well as the individual events, there are primary school and high school challenges and a Government/business challenge.

"There is also a range of seminars on injury prevention, training, footwear and nutrition, as well as running clinics and a variety of family entertainment.

"I encourage people to take part in the Festival. Registration forms and event timetables can be found at www.stromlorunningfestival.com.au."

Mr Barr said the ACT Government invested \$7.5 million in the establishment of Stromlo Forest Park as a recreational facility for runners, walkers, equestrians and bike riders.

"The Stromlo Running Festival will benefit greatly from the ACT Government's recent additional investment of \$2.78 million towards improving the venue ahead of the 2009 World Mountain Bike and Trials Championships. There have been improvements to access and safety, parking, event management facilities, landscaping, event camping and spectator viewing areas.

ACT Government

Phone (02) 6205 0011 Fax (02) 6205 0157

Media Contact: Paul Kindermann 6205 1690 Mobile 0403 600 955 paul.kindermann@act.gov.au