



AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST DESERT RACE – QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND ANNUALLY

10th June 2015

Statement from the Finke Desert Race Committee

On Monday 8th June, there was a statement posted on Facebook attributed to Liz Martin, the CEO of the National Road Transport Hall of Fame that advised camping along a section of the Finke race track would be banned for future races.

Until this post, the Finke committee had not heard of any problems with campers this year nor had we been contacted by Ms Martin.

The statement referred to volunteers who were attempting to collect camping fees being threatened and subject to abuse by campers. The Finke Desert Race Committee is very concerned that volunteers of any organisation are placed in a position that threatens their wellbeing. It is not acceptable that those who give up their own time to support others are on the receiving end of such behaviour. Any threats that are made should be reported to the Police and they will deal with the situation.

From the post we understand that the Road Transport Historical Society wants a meeting of all stakeholders. Members of the Finke Committee are prepared to attend a meeting and work towards a solution that will work for all involved.

In some responses to the post, the NT Government has come in for some criticism. I need to make it clear that the event is run by a voluntary committee with the support of the NT Major Events Company and 350 volunteers; this is not a government run event. The committee receives in-kind support from the Northern Territory Government in the form of vehicles, computers and event management. There is no operational funding provided to the committee.

It is not the intention of the Finke committee to provide a response to the post or discuss this via social media.

We thank all those who helped make this year's event the huge success that it was and hope that the incidents referred to in the Facebook post do not overshadow the enormous contribution made by so many to help celebrate the 40th Finke milestone.

Antony Yoffa
President
Finke Desert Race Inc.