



**AUSTRALIA'S GREATEST DESERT RACE  
QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 9 – 12 JUNE 2017**

## Entries Bonanza for Finke 2017

Media Release | 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017

Entries opened in the bike section for the Tatts Finke Desert Race yesterday morning and in the first 12 hours, 554 competitors had lodged and paid for an entry.

"This is an incredible response to the call for entries into Australia's Greatest Desert Race", said Finke Desert Race Club President Antony Yoffa. "Already a waitlist has been established once this year's limit of 500 entrants was reached".

Only the 40th Finke in 2015 saw more entries received on opening day (600). Car entries for this year's event are expected to open in early March.

"We may need to consider increasing the size of the field given the response. The last thing we want is for those people prepared to pay their money being denied a start."

For the past three years, half the bike competitors have been first timers and this is the trend again. This guarantees a replenished field each year and a broad competitor base. In excess of 80% of competitors are from interstate promising another bumper tourist crowd to visit the Northern Territory.

"If the interest in the bike section of the event is any measure, we may see an increase in car numbers. Last year's car entries were the second biggest on record (127) and with this year being the 30th Finke for the cars, I expect there to be a bumper number of entries", said Mr Yoffa.

The list of entries is progressively being loaded onto the website as payments are processed and race numbers allocated. There are three former Kings of the Desert entered so far, including defending champion Toby Price.

An estimated 5000 support crew and family will accompany interstate competitors to Alice Springs from interstate. The event is expected to inject \$5M into the local economy during race week in June.

### Media Enquiries

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