



The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

MEDIA RELEASE

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WORLD FIRST FOR NSW INSTITUTE OF SPORT

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, today joined board members of the NSW Institute of Sport (NSWIS) and Altitude Technology Solutions (ATS) in launching the revolutionary new altitude training system at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

Mr Annesley said, "The new pool-based training system has a canopy covering two of 25 metre lanes of a swimming pool. The system generates an environment similar to that experienced during altitude training."

The innovative technology is complemented by the Institute's environment room, hypoxic tents and converted altitude motor home providing flexibility for non-aquatic options for athletes to train in an altitude environment.

NSWIS Chief Executive Charles Turner said, "This is a world first and will give the Institute's athletes a distinct advantage on their competitors. The Institute and our athletes are excited by the partnership with ATS, and the potential of the sustained use of their products.

"Its mobility and the fact you can use the system all year round in varied conditions provides a real boost ahead of the 2012 and 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games," said Mr Turner.

Australian swimming head coach, Leigh Nugent, said, "This is a cutting edge initiative by the NSWIS, giving Australia's top swimmers exposure to a training stimulus which is available to few in the world.

"This innovation will add value to the to the current suite of resources available in the NSWIS altitude program, which will be advantageous to our swimmers as they prepare for London and Rio further down the track," said Mr Nugent.

Mr Annesley added, "The altitude training system will provide athletes with the opportunity to gain much needed experience at home and save the need to relocate overseas in the lead up to major events.

"Both the NSW Institute of Sport and Altitude Technology Solutions are to be congratulated on their partnership and the initiative of the revolutionary new altitude training system.

"I'm very confident our NSWIS swimmers will reap the rewards at future events starting with the 2012 London Olympics," Mr Annesley said.