



The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY COUNTS DOWN TO NRL GRAND FINAL

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, congratulated the Manly Sea Eagles and the New Zealand Warriors on their 2011 seasons as both teams entered the NRL grand final week eyeing Sunday's ultimate prize.

"I congratulate the Sea Eagles and the Warriors on their 2011 season which sees them doing battle this Sunday at ANZ Stadium for the title, and judging on the finals series I'm certain both squads will ensure spectators a high quality game of rugby league," Mr Annesley said.

"It's a very exciting time of the year especially if you are an Eagles or Warriors fan and I hope all league supporters enjoy the occasion in the right spirit.

"As the 2011 season draws to a close, it's appropriate to acknowledge the hard work of the sports volunteers that make rugby league the powerful community force it is.

"Many of these quiet achievers will be recognised at the One Community Awards in Sydney on Monday night and all volunteers, in all codes deserve our thanks because sport at grass root level would not exist without their contribution," Mr Annesley said.

Mr Annesley said Sydney knows how to put on a great show and rugby league fans can look forward to grand final celebrations throughout the week.

The Men of League Gala Ball will be staged on Tuesday night followed by the traditional team's grand final breakfast on Thursday morning.

The family-friendly NRL Grand Final Fan Party will be held at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour, on Thursday while hundreds of young boys and girls will take part in Kids to Kangaroos coaching clinic at ANZ Stadium on Friday.

Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality, Racing and the Arts, George Souris, said Rugby League is a great sport followed by millions of Australians and New Zealanders... and the Grand Final is the pinnacle of the rugby league season.

"I too congratulate the grand finalists, the Manly Sea Eagles and the New Zealand Warriors and know this match will have fans on both sides of the Tasman on the edge of their seats; adding an international perspective to the competition," Mr Souris said.

"The rugby league grand final is truly an annual major event for Sydney and I congratulate the NRL, the clubs, coaches and players for producing a sporting event of which we can all be proud," Mr Souris added.



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Mr Annesley added, “The NRL Grand Final is one of the biggest sporting events on the Australian sporting calendar and the clash between Sydney’s best team this year, Manly and the bulk and brilliance of the New Zealand Warriors will be special.

“On a personal note I hope the best team wins and that fans and spectators thoroughly enjoy the grand final celebrations within the boundaries of common sense,” Mr Annesley said.