



The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 15 December 2011

NSW GOVERNMENT PUTS WIND IN THE SAILS OF SYDNEY REGATTA

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, said today Sydneysiders can expect to see a flotilla of watercraft competing on the harbour and in Botany Bay this weekend as part of the 2011 Sail Sydney Regatta.

“Sail Sydney is one of NSW’s premier sailing events and this year for the first time the popular event will be open to all classes of Dinghy,” said Mr Annesley.

As one of just eight events classified as Grade 1 by the International Sailing Federation, the Sail Sydney competition provides an important opportunity for Olympic hopefuls to improve their rankings with a view to competing in London next year.

To date Yachting NSW has received interest from over 40 Classes with approximately 850 boats expected to participate, with the event not restricted to Olympic or youth disciplines.

“This weekend’s open regatta follows Sail Sydney’s Grade 1 event in November for Olympic and Paralympic classes,” Mr Annesley said.

“Spectators will get a birds-eye view of some of the best sailors in the world with competitors from over 20 countries doing battle against their Australian counterparts.”

Mr Annesley said the NSW Government had provided a \$15,000 grant to Sail Sydney to assist in the staging of the event under the International Sporting Events Program.

“The ISEP provides funding grants to help not-for-profit sporting organisations attract and stage international sporting events in NSW.

“High level competitions provide an opportunity for our local athletes, coaches and officials to develop their skills and gain much needed experience,” Mr Annesley said.

The 2011 Sail Sydney Regatta will run from 16 to 18 December.

For more information visit the website at www.sailsydney.org.au

For more information on the International Sporting Events program, please visit the website at www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/grants.

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