



# The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Tuesday 3 January 2012

### **NSW CENTRAL WEST TO HOST WORLD'S BEST GLIDERS**

NSW Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, said more than one hundred glider pilots will descend on western NSW tomorrow for the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> FAI Pre-World Hang Gliding Championships.

“Glider pilots from thirty different countries will be competing in the 19<sup>th</sup> FAI Pre-World Hang Gliding Championships, which will determine the world champion and the world’s best national hang gliding team,” Mr Annesley said.

To be held in the regional NSW town of Forbes from the 4th to 14th January 2012, this major international event is supported by \$20,000 in NSW Government funding.

Forbes offers some of the most consistent hang gliding weather in the world.

The competition will be staged at Forbes airport with the help of the Forbes Aeroclub.

Each national team comprises 4 to 6 of the country's top pilots who will be accompanied by a team leader, coach, and supporters.

The FAI Pre-World Hang Gliding Championships is a major part of the build-up to Australia’s hosting of the 2013 Hang Gliding World Championships.

“Participants and spectators are expected to come from all around Australia and overseas, providing a welcome boost for tourism in the region,” Mr Annesley said.

“This ten day event will provide excellent exposure and economic benefits to the town of Forbes and the surrounding region.”

Mr Annesley added the \$20,000 funding grant was provided through the NSW Government’s International Sporting Events Program, which is coordinated by the Office of Communities.

“This program helps NSW sporting organisations to attract and stage international events in our State.

“By providing direct financial assistance for high level sporting competitions, the NSW Government is helping the development of local athletes, officials and clubs, while also supporting local businesses and the economy,” Mr Annesley said