



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**4 November 2009**

### **Exciting Motor Sport development opportunity for the former Mitsubishi test track site**

*The prospect of additional motor sports and training facilities for road users and all sectors of the automotive industry looks set to proceed following a decision announced today by the Coorong District Council and other key parties.*

*Involving Motorcycling South Australia (MSA) and the Sporting Car Club of South Australia (SCC of SA) with the support of The Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS) and Motorcycling Australia (MA) the plan when fully implemented would see the former Mitsubishi test site at Taillem Bend transformed into a complex for on and off road motor sport events for both motorcycles and cars.*

*Other uses for the complex that covers approximately 1680 acres would include driver training, and vehicle testing for motorcycles, cars, heavy vehicles, and machinery.*

*The site is located on the corner of the Dukes and Mallee Highways approx 100 kilometres from Adelaide and approx 570 kilometres from Melbourne.*

*Fully developing the facility will require a multi-million dollar investment over several years.*

*The complex will hold motor sport events including motorcycle and car circuit racing, drag racing, drifting, super motard, rallying, motocross, and endurance events.*

*The next step in the process is a full feasibility study of the project to be part funded by CAMS together with the other parties involved.*

*Parties involved with the project said today that the Taillem Bend facility would provide an economic stimulus in the area and would include both long term and short-term employment.*

*'The proposal would supplement existing facilities in South Australia.  
Mr. Lyn Punshon a spokesperson for the Sporting Car Club of SA said today:*

*'There is a great need for more facilities Australia wide and South Australia can take a position of leadership when the Taillem Bend motorsport facility comes on stream'.*

*"The Sporting Car Club sees this as a great opportunity to work in with MSA, CAMS, MA and the Coorong District Council to establish a motorsport and driver training facility that can be utilized by all motoring and motorcycle clubs in South Australia."*





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*Ivan Golding, President of Motorcycling South Australia said: "This is a most exciting project, which will take us into the future with substantial benefits for motorsport. We look forward to working closely with the Sporting Car Club of SA and the Coorong District Council to continue to deliver motorsport not only in South Australia but also nationally, which will include both motorcycling and car events.*

*Jo Malloy from Motorcycling South Australia said: "We have a fantastic opportunity to develop an international standard complete motorsport facility. This exciting project will provide South Australian motorsport enthusiasts another facility in which they can enjoy their sport whether it is as a participant or spectator and whether they enjoy cars or bikes, both on road and off road. It is our intention to cater for all codes of motorsport. We are very happy to be in a position in which we can work in conjunction with the Sporting Car Club of South Australia and we are delighted to have the backing of all the relevant governing bodies both nationally and internationally. The Coorong District Council along with the Regional Development Board have been very proactive in their decision to develop the site and we look forward to working with them to create the motorsport facility"*

*The CEO of CAMS Mr. Graham Fountain today also welcomed the announcement. "Access to motor sport facilities is one of the key challenges faced by the sport and the addition of Tailem Bend to Mallala in South Australia is a tremendous boost for the sport and community. In addition, this venue will provide a key facility for the conduct of a range of education and training programs, which will include the full range of CAMS new and exciting proactive community and youth development programs", Mr. Fountain said..*

*Coorong District Council Mayor Roger Strother said: "There has been quite a lot of public and media interest in the former test track site since Council acquired it earlier this year. I am very excited at the prospect of having a Motorsport Facility developed on the former test track site. Such a development will bring enormous economic benefit to the district and put the Coorong District Council on the map with national exposure. I am sure the announcement of this exciting opportunity will bring renewed confidence in the district which has recently been undermined with on going issues regarding drought and water issues. I look forward to working with the SCCSA and MSA to ensure their vision for the site becomes a reality."*

*Speaking on behalf of the consortium Mr. Punshon said that while the master planning and feasibility stage would take 18 months to complete; club and, community events as well as driver/rider training activities at the Tailem Bend site could commence as early as the beginning of 2010 with sprint, motorkana, burnout and off road events likely to be the first conducted at the Tailem Bend complex.*

*An open day will be held at the site in the near future to enable clubs and driver training organizations to view the current facilities and also have input into the vision for the site.*





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### ***Background***

At a special Council meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009 the Coorong District Council resolved to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sporting Car Club of South Australia (SCCSA) and Motorcycling South Australia (MSA) to develop the former Mitsubishi Test Track site into an International Motor Sport Facility. The MoU will allow for the commencement of more detailed negotiations and investigations required to create a final contract on the land and ensure the development proceeds.

The Council commenced an Expression of Interest process in June this year with the aim of identifying development opportunities for the site. Following a comprehensive assessment and evaluation process the Council has decided the combined SCCSA and MSA submission is the best proposal to deliver a major economic development opportunity for the Council. The Council's main intention when it purchased the site was to facilitate a major development that would bring economic development to the district.

The SCCSA and MSA intend to design and develop a multi purpose International Standard Motorsport Facility for both on and off road motorsport events, driver training, vehicle testing and other motor sport and motor club events for on road and off road events for bikes and cars (including but not limited to circuit racing, drag racing, drifting, motard, rallying) and training for bikes, cars, heavy vehicles and machinery.

The Council, SCCSA and MSA are eager to work together to ensure the proposed development is successful. The Council is pleased to be working with two South Australia organisations that have both demonstrated a commitment to establishing an international motorsport facility in South Australia, are highly regarded and reputable with significant expertise in motor sport and have the support of the Confederation of Australian Motorsport (CAMS). The SCCSA is the oldest motorsport club in southern hemisphere and has a membership base of 1800 motoring enthusiasts, it promotes and organises all of SA's state level car circuit racing activities. MSA is the governing body for motorcycle sports in SA and has a membership of 6000 motorcycle sport enthusiasts and over 40 affiliated clubs throughout the state. MSA is supported by Motorcycling Australia (MA).

The Council would like to acknowledge the tremendous support it has received from the Murraylands Regional Development Board (MRDB) throughout the EOI process. The MRDB has been proactive in assisting Council with its aims of promoting economic development in the area.





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