



Media release

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Record No: REL042/MR

Date Issued: 15 August 2014

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National athletics event for Albany

More than 1000 athletes will descend on Albany next weekend for one of the biggest events on the Australian athletics calendar.

Held in conjunction with School Sport Australia, the Go For 2&5 2014 Australian Cross Country Championships will see about 2500 athletes, officials and spectators travel to Albany from across the country.

The event will be held at one of Albany's most highly regarded schools – Great Southern Grammar – on Saturday August 23.

Then, on Sunday August 24, the 2014 Australian Race Walking Championships will be held at Flinders Parade, next to Albany's iconic Middleton Beach.

Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the City of Albany was proud to support the events.

"The City of Albany plays an active role in supporting and promoting the cultural identity of our community by attracting major sporting events such as the 2014 Go For 2&5 Australian Cross Country Championships," he said.

Athletics WA CEO Wayne Loxley said he was excited about securing the event for Albany and Western Australia.

"This event is one of the biggest on the Australian athletics calendar and we are very confident it will be a huge success in Albany," he said.

"A huge number of competitors, officials and spectators will travel to Albany alongside their families and coaches as part of teams that represent the eight Australian states and territories."

Temporary extended retail trading has been secured by the City of Albany for Sunday 24 August 10am to 5pm to encourage local traders to gain full benefit from the extra visitors in town over the weekend.

Eventscorp analysis suggests more than \$2.3 million will be injected into the local economy as a result of the event.

The Australian Cross Country Championships have been held annually as an event for both men and women since 1973, with the event appearing in different formats prior to that since 1908.

The last time the Australian Cross Country Championships was held in a regional area was in 2009 when Nowra, New South Wales was host.

For more information, including timetables and course maps, visit www.athletics.com.au.



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