



14th May 2018

PRESS RELEASE

2019 World Rafting Championships – Tully One Year To Go

Today marks one year to go until athletes from all over the world hit Tully, Queensland, in an attempt to 'Tame the Tully' river at the 2019 World Rafting Championships.

Over 1,000 of the world's best rafters will travel to the Cassowary Coast for a chance to become the 'best of the best', driving millions into the local economy.

Held over 7 days from 13- 20 May 2019, teams from 54 countries will compete through a combination of disciplines that include sprints, head to head, slalom and downriver.

The event will be held on the world-renowned Tully River, on a section of iconic Grade IV water spilling through the world heritage rainforest of Tropical North Queensland.

The 2019 World Rafting Championships will attract more than 10,000 spectators to the region and complements the state's adventure tourism strategy.

Event director and former world champion rafter Graham Maifredi said the event would showcase a "piece of paradise" to the world.

"Tully and the greater Cassowary Coast region have been Australia's white water ground zero since the early 80s," Mr Maifredi said.

"The upcoming 2019 IRF World Rafting Championships pays tribute to the Tully River and the rivers of the Wet Tropics. Water is life, and we are lucky to have such prime rivers.

"We hope to see you here when the world comes to town."

With one year to go, Tully is already gearing up. Embracing the local and greater community, volunteers from all avenues are hanging to get their paddle in the water and be part of creating the event.

Minister for Tourism Industry Development Kate Jones said hosting the 2019 World Rafting Championships was a real coup for Tropical North Queensland.

"These Championships will take place in the Cassowary Coast, a well-known adventure tourism destination," she said.

"Participants will compete against the beautiful backdrop of the Tully River set within Tully Gorge National Park – a UNESCO World Heritage Rainforest – showcasing Queensland's reputation to host Australia's best live events in the best destinations.

"We look forward to welcoming thousands of spectators to the region, which will be a major boost for the region's economy.





“Queensland has just hosted the biggest event in our history, the Commonwealth Games demonstrating our ability to host world-class sporting events like these Championships.”

“There is an exciting vibe throughout the region in anticipation of this upcoming event,” said Mayor Kremastos.

“We live in one of the most beautiful places on the planet, and it will be wonderful to have the spotlight on us and to showcase to the rest of the world what this region has to offer.”

All eyes will be on Tully as the event will be streamed globally with millions of viewers tuning in from around the world.

For further information visit www.wrc2019.com, follow on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @WRCTully2019 or join in the conversation with #WRCTully2019

The 2019 World Rafting Championships is being staged in partnership with the Australian Rafting Federation and with the support of the Queensland Government, through Tourism and Events Queensland, as well as Tropical North Queensland, the Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Wet Tropics Management Authority, the Department of Environment and Science and the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing.

ABOUT THE RAFTING FEDERATION IN AUSTRALIA

Australia Rafting Federation (ARF) is the national body responsible for the sport of rafting in Australia as recognised by the International Rafting Federation (IRF), and are WORKING with the Australian Government through the Australian Sports Commission (ASC),

In 2016 the Australian Rafting Federation was awarded the right to host the 2019 World Rafting Championships. The ARF secured the event with the support of the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland and the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing, in partnership with Cassowary Coast Regional Council, James Cook University and Tourism Tropical North Queensland.

EVENT SNAPSHOT:

2019 World Rafting Championships

Monday 13 May – Sunday 19 May

The world’s best White Water Rafting and Canoe athletes

The event is an Official IRF event

Check out all the information via the 2019 World Rafting Championships website, visit -

<http://www.wrc2019.com>

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