

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Funding boosts Albany Clipper connection

A group of daring adventurers are set to take on the world in 12 identical 21m yachts when the 2015 Clipper Round the World Yacht race starts in London on 30 August.

The race, a 40,000-nautical-mile challenge over 11 months, calls into 14 host ports, including a stop in Albany in late November.

Albany's reception for Clipper participants will be all the warmer due to a \$40,001 contribution from the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) to the City of Albany for the project. This includes \$20,000 in Royalties for Regions funding through the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme.

The grant will support the City of Albany to develop a program of welcome events when the fleet sails into Albany in a scenic finish to the second of eight race legs.

Funds will also assist the City to implement a dedicated marketing campaign which will encourage supporters and enthusiasts to visit Albany to watch the race formalities and for crews to explore the region during their stay.

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle said the Commission was pleased to partner with the City of Albany as a major sponsor to build on the success of the Clipper Race stop in 2013.

"The event is a huge boost for the regional economy and an incredible opportunity to showcase Albany and the Great Southern on the world stage," Mr Rundle said.

"National and international media exposure gained from Albany's participation in the event will continue to have benefits within the Great Southern long after the race fleet has left our port.

"Major events such as the Clipper race also create a festival atmosphere and sense of excitement within the city for both visitors and locals," Mr Rundle said.

Crowds for the Albany stopover will not only experience the spectacle of the race finish, but will also witness the high emotion of one of their own sailing into her home port. Local hero Nicola Edwards, who is undertaking the feat of participating in all eight legs, will be on board team PSP Logistics for the race.



Building partnerships for regional prosperity

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The yachts are expected to arrive in Albany from 22 November with the formal start of the Albany to Sydney leg starting on 1 December 2015.

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