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NSW GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT SOUTHERN 80 IN 2016

Member for Murray Adrian Piccoli has advised that the NSW Government will support the Southern 80, three-day water ski racing festival, set to take place in Echuca-Moama on the Murray, attracting competitors from New Zealand, Great Britain and the USA.

"The Southern 80 is an internationally recognised water skiing event that will continue to play a significant role in boosting tourism in the region and I am proud the NSW Government will be supporting this event in 2016 through our tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW," Mr Piccoli said.

"The Southern 80 attracts thousands of spectators to our region each year and is one of our key tourism events. We look forward to welcoming visitors to Echuca-Moama and encourage everyone to explore the region's rich and diverse history, fantastic restaurants and exciting attractions.

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events and Minister for Sport Stuart Ayres today announced the investment in Southern 80, one of the world's most iconic water ski races.

"This exciting event will provide a boost to the local visitor economy and is expected to attract more than 6,000 domestic and international overnight visitors to the Murray region and NSW in 2016, with a total visitor spend of \$3.4 million."

"The Murray River is the original lifeblood of the Echuca-Moama region and the major link in the tourism identity of the twin towns.

The event features two days of racing with 17 classes competing across a shorter 20km course from File Mile Reserve to Victoria Park on the Saturday and 22 classes competing across the full 80km distance on the Sunday.

"The Southern 80 has become the hallmark event for water sports enthusiasts," Mr Piccoli concluded.

The Southern 80 is operated by the Moama Water Sport Club. The 2016 event will take place from 12 until 14 February.