



Media release for immediate publication

Cycle Classic Expands in 2024

February 22, 2024

The Squadron Energy Grafton to Inverell Cycle Classic race weekend on April 27-28, provides increased opportunities for road cyclists to be a part of this iconic Australian ‘classic’ event.

The event is very proud once again to have Squadron Energy as the major event partner this year. Their fantastic support has allowed the event to expand from a one-day format to a two-day festival of cycling that kicks off in Grafton on Saturday morning and finishes in Inverell on Sunday.

“We are immensely proud to be supporting this fantastic sporting event for the third year running,” Squadron Energy’s Executive General Manager Development Ed Mounsey said.

“Major sporting events like the Grafton to Inverell bring communities together. As Australia’s leading renewable energy company, we couldn’t think of a better way to support the entire community than by backing this fantastic world class cycling event that showcases the very best of Northern New South Wales.”

The traditional 228km gruelling race from Grafton to Inverell will be supported by several event options in 2024 that promote broader participation of the cycling community. The additional options include:

- The expansion of the Women’s National Road Series event from a one-day race into a two-stage race (‘Sapphire Tour’) conducted over two days and comprising of:
 - Stage 1 – Mt Mitchell to Inverell 109km
 - Stage 2 – Lake Inverell Circuit Race 45km
- The inclusion of a Pairs Relay where the first team member rides from Grafton to Mt Mitchell (119km) before passing over to the second team member who completes the final leg of the Grafton to Inverell course from Mt Mitchell to the finish in Inverell (109km).
- The inclusion of the Mt Mitchell to Inverell Open as a separate race over 109km on Saturday
- The inclusion of an Open Lake Inverell Circuit race over 30km on Sunday to support the National Road Series categories.

Event organisers see the new additions attracting more riders to the region, driving even greater local participation and providing more opportunities for spectators to experience some of the best cycling racing in the country.

“The Grafton to Inverell is a very tough race” said Event Director, Chris Thompson. “It has close to 4000m of climbing and a cut-off time of nine and a half hours. We recognise that it does require a level of preparation and training just to finish.”



“Whilst the full distance race remains the feature of the weekend, it is great that additional riders can now be part of the action, share the experience and contribute to the atmosphere of a fantastic weekend of racing.”

The Pairs Relay adds another dimension to the traditional Grafton to Inverell course and is a chance to trial a format that hasn’t featured in road cycling races before.

“We are very interested to see if the Pairs Relay will be a success,” said Mr Thompson. “This is a novel concept for road cycling that appears to suit the Grafton to Inverell. It allows paired riders the chance to share the workload of riding the challenging course and strategise who gets the task of taking on the infamous Gibraltar Range climb.”

“It also removes the challenge of arranging the logistics of transport and feeding support on the point-to-point course.”

The Grafton to Inverell remains the toughest one day cycling race in Australia and continues to showcase the future of Australian cycling as a premier event on the AusCycling National Road Series calendar. It will attract Australia’s leading teams and riders over the two-day program that culminates with the Lake Inverell Circuit races on Sunday.

Entries for the 2024 Squadron Energy Grafton to Inverell are now open - <https://www.graftontoinverell.com.au/>