



## Media Release

For immediate release

# Go Slow Beach Races sets a bigger course for 2027

Darwin, Northern Territory

The inaugural Go Slow Mindil Beach Picnic Races will move from Saturday, 8 August 2026 to Saturday, 29 May 2027, creating an opportunity to deliver a significantly larger and more ambitious event on the iconic sands of Mindil Beach.

Following extensive consultation with event partners, stakeholders, suppliers and the local community, organisers have made the strategic decision to postpone the 2026 event rather than compromise the scale, quality or long-term potential of its inaugural presentation.

The additional lead time will allow Go Slow to expand its beach activations, develop interstate tourism packages and build a sustainable event with the potential to become a major fixture on the Northern Territory tourism calendar.

Importantly, the revised timeline will also allow organisers to work towards delivering Go Slow with exciting partners and expanded program of events.

This would enable the event to cater for a larger audience, expand its licensed areas and hospitality offerings, and deliver a broader program of entertainment, food, beverages and premium race-day experiences.

## A bigger vision for Mindil Beach

Sprout Director Anya Lorimer said the move to 2027 would provide the time required to realise the event's original vision.

"From the beginning, we have had big dreams for Go Slow. We didn't want to create just another race day; we wanted to build an iconic Territory experience with the potential to become nationally recognised," Ms Lorimer said.

"Moving to May 2027 gives us the runway to realise more of those ideas: more action on the beach, a broader equestrian program, stronger hospitality experiences, more entertainment and more opportunities for visitors to experience everything that makes Darwin special."

"We are not scaling the vision back, we are building it up. Think a premium beachside event crossed with a Territory picnic race: horsemanship, barefoot hospitality, picnic racing, fashion, food, music, history and the Mindil Beach sunset."



"The additional time gives us the opportunity to move from a special-event model to a major-event format, subject to approval, allowing us to welcome more people and create a much more substantial experience across the site."

## History brought to life

Go Slow is inspired by Darwin's original 1918 "Our Day" races, when the community gathered on Mindil Beach for horse racing, entertainment and fundraising in support of returned servicemen.

More than a century later, the event will bring that history back to life while creating a contemporary celebration of Darwin's character, culture, community spirit and outdoor lifestyle.

The expanded 2027 program is expected to include beach horse racing, heritage races, horsemanship displays, family beach activations, fashions on the sand, live entertainment, local food and premium hospitality experiences.

The additional planning period will also allow organisers to explore more ambitious installations and activations across Mindil Beach, while creating stronger opportunities for tourism, media, commercial and community partners.

## Building an event with longevity

The decision acknowledges the challenging economic and commercial environment currently facing events, sponsors, suppliers and local businesses.

Rescheduling now gives Go Slow a full promotional runway to secure meaningful partnerships, build national awareness, develop travel and accommodation packages and deliver an inaugural event with a stronger foundation for long-term growth.

"We know there will be people who are disappointed that Go Slow will not proceed this August," Event Director Nicole Ogilvie said.

"This decision has not been made lightly. Our team has invested an enormous amount of passion, energy and belief into the event, but postponing it means that we can keep up the momentum of getting great partners on board.

"This is a postponement, not a retreat. It is an opportunity to take a bold idea and turn it into something even more compelling, an event with the scale, capacity and longevity to become a fixture on the Northern Territory tourism calendar."

"The extra time means we can move beyond delivering a special event and work towards creating a true major event for Darwin."



"We are enormously grateful to every rider, partner, sponsor, supplier, volunteer and supporter who believed in Go Slow during its first chapter. We hope they will continue on the journey with us as we create something truly special for 2027."

Existing ticket holders have been contacted directly with information about transferring their tickets to the 2027 event or receiving a refund.

Further information about the expanded event program, partnership opportunities, tickets, tourism packages and hospitality experiences will be announced as planning progresses.

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## Media enquiries

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## About Go Slow Mindil Beach Picnic Races

Go Slow is a contemporary revival of Darwin's historic 1918 Mindil Beach races.

The event brings together beach horse racing, Territory heritage, entertainment, fashion, food and premium hospitality in one of Australia's most iconic sunset locations.

The inaugural Go Slow Mindil Beach Picnic Races will be held on Saturday, 29 May 2027, at Mindil Beach.

Tickets can be purchased from [www.goslowbeachraces.com.au](http://www.goslowbeachraces.com.au)