



Mr Manzie ... new road

## City road link to be ready in February: Manzie

Work is to begin on a new access road between Palmerston and Berrimah this month.

The road, to run from Elrundle Ave to Berrimah Rd, is the first stage of an access road which will eventually be joined with Tiger Brennan Dve to carry city traffic.

Transport and Works Minister Daryl Manzie said tenders for the project would close today.

He said the new road, which had been costed at about \$2.7 million, was part of the Government's plans to ease traffic congestion resulting from the population build-ups in the Palmerston and rural areas.

### Completion

The wet season would have some bearing on the completion date, but the Government was confident it would be operational by February, Mr Manzie said.

He told Parliament the Department of Transport and Works would enter into a partnership arrangement with the contractor.

Deputy Chief Minister and Palmerston MLA Barry Coulter said the rapid growth in the Palmerston and inner-rural areas meant a new road to the city was essential.

# Cannonball deaths: Driver 'not in race'



Witness Paul Castaldi outside the court yesterday ... came from Sydney to view Run

By BOB WATT

The driver of a "civilian" car just ahead of the Ferrari involved in the fatal crash during the NT Cannonball Run denied yesterday he was trying to take part in the Run.

Paul Castaldi told Darwin Coroners Court he obtained a copy of the route instructions for the 95 km section from Run officials that morning.

Mr Castaldi, of Sydney, said the closest the Ferrari came up behind him was 50 m. His car did not contribute to the Ferrari going out of control at the checkpoint.

### Flag

A flag marshal close to the checkpoint said he had the impression the Ferrari was "tailgating" the sedan.

When the two cars passed him there was "only a metre or two" between them.

But he felt sure the Japanese competitors in the Ferrari would have had a clear view of him and his yellow flag.

Mr Castaldi and the flag marshal were among those giving evidence during the third day of the inquest into four men who died on May 24, during the Run from Darwin to Ayers Rock and return.

Those who died were Japanese Ferrari driver Akhiro Kabe, 40, navigator Takeshi Okano, 35, and Run officials, Territorians Keith Pritchard, 51, and Tim Linklater, 22.

Police witnesses are expected to give evidence before Coroner John Lowndes when the inquest resumes today.

Peter Ronald Kimber, of McMinns La-

goon, told the inquest he was a flag marshal stationed 600 m to 800 m before the crash checkpoint.

He saw the two vehicles travelling at speeds which he estimated between 160 km/h and 200 km/h.

He said the Ferrari caught up and about 200 m before they reached him it seemed the Ferrari was tailgating the sedan, which was "travelling at a fair rate". He was concerned the Ferrari would not be able to pull into the checkpoint because of its speed.

Mr Kimber said he formed the view that the people in the white car were filming.

Mr Castaldi said he came to Alice Springs to see the Run and hired a Lexcen to drive down the Stuart Hwy to watch a speed section.

He said when he came to a sweeping bend he saw the red (Ferrari) moving up quickly behind him.

### Bend

As he came out of the bend the Ferrari was 50 m to 100 m behind him, still accelerating.

Mr Castaldi said he was doing about 140 km/h and estimated the Ferrari was doing 200 km/h.

He said when they passed the flag marshal the Ferrari was 200 m to 400 m behind him.

Asked by counsel for the Japanese families David Farquhar if he was "actively competing" in the Run, Mr Castaldi said he was not.

He admitted to Mr Farquhar he was the author of a letter to *Wheels* magazine saying he had driven the hire car ahead of the field to experience the cars overtaking him.

## Blast clues hunt

Police and fire investigators yesterday continued to check for clues in the rubble of the Casuarina Hungry Jacks store.

Investigators from the Power and Water Authority and the Work Health Authority also assisted.

They were looking for the cause of a gas explosion which destroyed the store on Monday.

A police spokesman said investigators would continue to look at all gas lines and electrical installations.

### CORRECTION

In the Beta Electrical October catalogue the following correction should be noted.

The Kelonator 300 litre Cyclic Defrost fridge at \$799 was advertised as 100% CFC free. This is incorrect and should be 50% CFC free.

The Simpson Tidy Washer was advertised as having 3 cycles and 7 programs. This should have been 6 cycles and 6 programs.

Betta Electrical apologises for any inconvenience caused to our valued customers.



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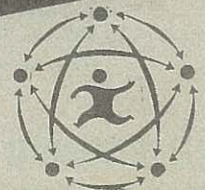
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