



Michael Adams ...
speed question

Officials clash over speed limit for Run

By **BOB WATT**

Officials from a top motorsport body disagreed yesterday about whether their organisation had imposed a speed limit for the Cannonball Run.

A senior official of the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS) said CAMS had required a maximum average speed of 140 km/h for the competitive timed sections.

Darwin Coroners Court was told that after a fatal accident CAMS had put out a media release saying CAMS "guidelines" and NT road rules had been adhered to.

The release said CAMS had required a maximum average speed limit of 140 km/h on open road sections.

The CAMS official, rally division manager Bruce Keys, said that after talking to CAMS chief steward Mike Bell, who followed the Run, he understood organisers had adhered to the 140 km/h limit.

By the time CAMS

issued the permit on March 18 he believed the limit was a mandatory requirement.

Counsel assisting the coroner Michael Adams QC asked Mr Keys: "Isn't it the case that you knew very well there was no mandated speed limit?"

Mr Keys replied: "I refute that statement absolutely."

He agreed the organisers' solicitors contacted CAMS after the statement asking that the "error" about the limit not be repeated.

Reply

Mr Keys was unable to find any reply among papers he had in the Melbourne courtroom where he was giving video evidence.

Mr Bell told the court he believed organisers had not accepted a speed limit.

Mr Adams asked: "Mr Keys told you CAMS had proposed a maximum speed but it was not accepted?"

Mr Bell replied: "That's correct."

The inquest into the deaths of four people during the Cannonball Run continues today.