



# Media Release

**Embargoed until 9.30am Tuesday, 7 December 2010**

## **Grommets get three years of Hunter Water support**

Hunter Water has shored up its support of Australia's future surfing champions by signing a three year partnership with Surfest worth \$45,000.

For more than 20 years Hunter Water has sponsored Surfest, the Hunter's only annual international sporting event, through its annual Community Funding Program.

Hunter Water's General Manager Infrastructure Delivery Chris Turnbull said Hunter Water had long supported Surfest and was excited to continue supporting talented youth in the local area.

"As well as the 'Hunter Water Encouragement Awards', which provide competitors with financial assistance, we also sponsor the 'Stars of the Future' award which helps young surfers prepare for careers in professional surfing," Mr Turnbull said.

"Through our Community Funding Program we build important relationships with our community and support initiatives that share in our vision to provide water security for our growing region."

"Sponsoring community initiatives such as Surfest helps us to spread important messages about how we can all be more water wise, care for our environment, and live a healthy lifestyle, which benefits the whole community.

"Surfest has built a culture of giving grommets a go and we're proud to be a part of developing the exceptional sporting talent that the Hunter's famous for," Mr Turnbull said.

Surfest organiser Warren Smith welcomed the support from Hunter Water. He said the continued funding would help assure Surfest's ability to promote competitive junior surfing.

"Hunter Water's financial commitment to Surfest for the next three years, on top of what they have provided over the past two decades, is an incredibly important contribution to the development of junior surfing.

"This partnership assures the strengthening and enhancement of all Surfest events involving juniors from right around the nation.

**Photo Opportunity:** In the spirit of learning new tricks, Chris Turnbull will receive a surfing lesson from some of the region's champion grommets.

**Time;** 9.30am

**Date:** Tuesday 7 December

**Location:** Nobby's Beach

**More information: Elisha Yorke, Hunter Water on 02 4979 9524 or 0427 547 498**

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