

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 11.00 AM
8 September 2018

Start Location Debut for Regional Towns: Hahndorf, Nuriootpa and Nairne 2019 Santos Women's Tour Down Under Women's Race Routes Revealed

For the first time the regional towns of Hahndorf, Nuriootpa and Nairne will host stage starts for the first three regional stages of the 2019 Santos Women's Tour Down Under.

Hon David Ridgway, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment confirmed today that the 2019 Santos Women's Tour Down Under riders will travel through towns in the Mount Barker District Council, Adelaide Hills Council and Barossa Council areas, with the grand finale through the streets of Adelaide's East End.

"The course set for the 2019 Santos Women's Tour Down Under will take the riders through some of South Australia's most picturesque locations in the Adelaide Hills and Barossa regions," said Minister Ridgway.

"With equal prize money up for grabs, we know the elite women riders will be battling hard over the 376 km covered across the four stages, to put on a great show for cycling fans.

"The level of support that the Santos Women's Tour Down Under has received from the regional towns involved is fantastic.

"We know they are taking it to the next level in 2019 with their current planning for community events and celebrations around the women's race in full swing with activities at each start and finish location."

A total of 17 teams (including 11 international teams from Denmark, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States) saw a total of 102 riders from 18 different countries participate in the 2018 event.

Race Director, Santos Tour Women's Down Under, Kimberley Conte said the course planned for 2019 has been designed to appeal to both sprinters and all rounders with a mix of challenges across the four stages to suit both style of riders.

"Stage 1 will see the riders travel from Hahndorf to Birdwood and we expect a fast, bunch sprint, whilst the course for Stage 2 from Nuriootpa to Mengler Hill will see the climbers reign supreme on this Subaru Queen of the Mountain," said Kimberley Conte.

"The beautiful and technically challenging Stage 3 course finishing in Stirling, incorporates part of the famous circuit used frequently on the Men's race. Riders who know the area well may be able to put their local knowledge to the test and emerge as the victor on this stage.

"We expect a fast and furious sprint finish for Stage 4 around the Adelaide East End Circuit, immediately before the Down Under Classic, with huge crowds anticipated to cheer on some of the best female athletes in the world on their final day of racing," said Kimberly Conte.

The 2019 Santos Tour Down Under will be held 10 – 20 January 2019 starting with Stage 1 of the Santos Women's Tour Down Under on Thursday 10 January.

The 2018 Santos Tour Down Under attracted a record 46,000 visitors from interstate and overseas who travelled specifically to South Australia for the event, generating an economic impact of \$63.7M, creating the equivalent of 774 full time jobs.

2019 Santos Women's Tour Down Under Race Routes Summary

Thursday 10 January 2019: **Stage 1:** Hahndorf to Birdwood (112.9 km)

Friday 11 January 2019: **Stage 2:** Nuriootpa to Mengler Hill (116.7 km)

Saturday 12 January 2019: **Stage 3:** Nairne to Stirling (104.5 km)

Sunday 13 January 2019: **Stage 4:** Adelaide East End Circuit (42.5 km)

Notes to Editors:

Santos Tour Down Under (TDU)

From humble beginnings in 1999, the TDU has grown to be one of Australia's premier sporting events, taking the fastest men and women in the world through some of the most iconic regions of SA. It is more than just a bike race, it is a festival of cycling, with a range of associated events and participation rides that create a massive party atmosphere. www.tourdownunder.com.au

Santos Women's Tour Down Under

In 2015, the annual women's race was established as part of the National Road Series, and in 2016 was granted UCI 2.2 status. Now operating as the Santos Women's Tour Down Under, the race was upgraded to UCI 2.1 status for the 2018 event, and saw elite international women's teams commence their season in Adelaide.

Rider Announcements – Santos Women's Tour Down Under

Riders and teams for the 2019 Santos Women's Tour Down Under will be confirmed and announced over the coming months.

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