

*2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)
Round 13 (Final): Kennards Hire Rally Australia*

***The Michelin LTX Force H4 and S5
ready for the Australian challenge***

What has been a particularly thrilling 2017 FIA World Rally Championship – which saw Sébastien Ogier and Julien Ingrassia seal their fifth consecutive world crown at last month's Wales Rally GB, while the Manufacturers' championship was wrapped up in favour of M-Sport, which runs the duo's Michelin-equipped Ford Fiesta WRC – is set to conclude on the sun-baked dirt tracks of the Coffs Harbour region on Australia's east coast.

With its 25th Drivers' crown in the bank, the French tyre firm travels to Australia this week intent on concluding its campaign on a high note after claiming a long list of wins at both WRC and WRC2 level.

The 2017 Rally Australia features a menu of 21 stages totalling 318.16 kilometres, an overall distance of more than 1,200km and a three-day format similar to that of 2015 and 2016. Certain tests will be run in the opposite direction to previous years, however, while there will be two days of action to the north of Coffs Harbour and one to the south, which means some of the tracks visited by the event will be entirely new for all the crews.

Michelin's WRC runners will be able to choose between the soft-compound (S5) and hard-compound (H4) versions of the MICHELIN LTX Force, and its WRC2 partners will be able to fit either the soft (S80) or hard (H90) MICHELIN Latitude Cross.

"The phenomenon of 'road sweeping' is a common feature of the world championship's gravel rounds but it is especially the case in Australia where the top coating of loose gravel tends to be thicker because it is practically summer in the southern hemisphere, of course," explains **Jacques Morelli**, the manager of Michelin's FIA WRC programme. "The surface breaks up easily and ground temperatures can reach up to 35°C during the morning, yet the MICHELIN LTX Force S5 is likely to be the main choice for the first attempts at the stages in order to seek out grip on the soft ground. In contrast, the H4 option promises to be the preferred choice for the more abrasive surface exposed second time around in the afternoons when ground temperatures can easily rise to more than 50°C. The teams will base their set-ups on the results of testing we did in Europe. They have been optimised for carrying either one or two spare wheels after careful evaluation of the potential gain of having two fresh tyres available for the end of a competitive loop, since the extra weight of a second spare equates to a handicap of approximately one-tenth of a second per kilometre."



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Michelin Motorsport's staff for the 2017 Kennards Hire Rally Australia

- **Jacques Morelli**, FIA WRC Programme Manager
- 4 team advisors (CTE)
- 2 coordinators
- 5 fitters

The MICHELIN LTX Force S5/H4 (for WRC crews)

Number of tyres available for Rally Australia: 646

Number of tyres per driver: 32 (including 4 for shakedown) from an overall allocation of 32 H4s (hard compound) and 16 S5s (soft)

The MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross H90/S80 (for WRC2 crews)

Number of tyres available for Rally Australia: 138

Number of tyres per driver: 30 (including 4 for shakedown) from an overall allocation of 30 H90s (hard compound) and 16 S80s (soft)



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