

Media Release

Tuesday 8 April 2025

Airport Development Group – Welcome the Parramatta Eels as they play their final Competition Game in the Top End

The Parramatta Eels will return to Darwin this weekend for their final competition match under the long-standing partnership with the Northern Territory Government. In a fitting conclusion, the Eels will face the Canberra Raiders; the same team they played against in the first NRL competition match hosted in Darwin 12 years ago.

Since its inception, this partnership has been instrumental in bringing elite rugby league to the Territory, engaging local communities, and strengthening the NT's position as a key sporting destination. Over the years, the Territory Eels (as they are known in the Top End) have inspired local talent, promoted grassroots rugby league, and provided an annual spectacle that has drawn thousands of NRL fans from across the country.

Darwin International Airport, the gateway to the Northern Territory, welcomes both the Parramatta Eels and the Canberra Raiders as they arrive ahead of this historic game. Airport Development Group (ADG) acknowledges the significance of this event, and the role sport plays in uniting communities across the Territory.

Quote – Tony Edmondstone. Chief Executive Officer. Airport Development Group

"Sport is an integral part of Territory life, and we welcome both teams as they prepare for this momentous game. The annual competition game in Darwin not only brings top-tier rugby league to our community but also contributes significantly to local tourism, showcasing the best of what the Territory has to offer,"

Quote - Jim Sarantinos Chief Executive Officer. Parramatta Eels "We'll be making the most out of our time in the Northern Territory this week with a travelling party who are excited to experience everything the Top End has to offer. We also have a few new players in our team who are looking forward to connecting with our fans in Darwin during the signing session, community visits, and at the game."

As the Eels prepare to take the field for one last time in Darwin under this partnership, the Territory will undoubtedly turn out in force to show their appreciation and support. This game is not just about sport—it's a celebration of community, tourism, and a remarkable chapter in NT rugby league history. The game will also provide a final chance for local fans to celebrate the Territory Eels and reflect on the incredible journey shared with the team.



This highly anticipated match will be broadcast live on Foxtel and Kayo, with kick-off at 7.05pm (Australian Central Standard time), offering national exposure to the Northern Territory, and highlighting the region's vibrant culture, landscapes, and tourism opportunities.

Buy your tickets [here](#)

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