

*2016 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)*

*Kennards Hire Rally Australia*

***Final outing of the year for the MICHELIN LTX Force H4/S4 (WRC) and the MICHELIN Latitude Cross H90/S80 (WRC2)***

For once, the FIA WRC won't conclude with Wales Rally GB which took place on October 28-31. Instead, this year's series will end in Australia where Michelin's tyres face a cocktail of hot weather and challenging trails through the eucalyptus forests of northern New South Wales.

Rally Australia first appeared on the championship's calendar in 1989 and, until 2006, was initially held in Perth, on the continent's west coast. Its base switched to New South Wales in 2009 and its epicentre has been Coffs Harbour since 2011.

The tyres available for the WRC crews this week are the hard and soft compound MICHELIN LTX Force H4 and S4, while their WRC2 colleagues will be able to choose between the MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross H90 (hard) and S80 (soft). These are the same products that were on hand in Wales three weeks ago, when the temperatures were much colder, an eloquent indication of the outstanding versatility of Michelin's WRC tyres which compete across the planet in a wide variety of climates.

This year's Rally Australia features a distance of 1,040.23km, including 23 stages totalling 312.98km. The route is essentially identical to that of 2015, although it marks the return of a super-special on the seafront in Coffs Harbour which hasn't been used since 2011. Meanwhile, Leg 2's menu includes two visits to a potentially decisive stage which exceeds 50km in length.

The Australian fixture has been voted Best Rally of the Year three times and is loved by all the championship's players, although its later slot in the calendar this time around promises to make it tougher...

"This year's Kennards Hire Rally Australia takes place 10 weeks later than its usual date," observes **Jacques Morelli**, manager of Michelin's FIA WRC programme. "As a result, the conditions will be more summery, with average air and ground temperatures that are respectively around 5°C and 10°C hotter. This will obviously affect our tyres and we could see the highest wear rates of the season. Our WRC partners will chiefly choose the hard-compound H4 for the region's particularly abrasive stages. I don't believe we will see the drivers run a combination of hard and soft tyres as they did last year, especially on the second passes. As in Sardinia, for example, running first on the road probably won't be the ideal start position, but our tyres should give our teams the edge."



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## Technical information – MICHELIN LTX Force S4/H4 and MICHELIN Latitude Cross S80/H90

**Size:** 205/65R15 (17/65-15)

**Width:** 205 mm

**Side wall height:** 133 mm

**Interior diameter:** 15 inches

**Type of tread pattern:** asymmetric and directional (a left- and a right-hand tyre)

**Surface:** non-sealed

**Conditions for the H4/H90:** aggressive, hard-wearing ground – dry weather – temperature more than 15° C

**Conditions for the S4/S80:** damp or wet dirt – temperature less than 15° C

**Rallies where the H4/H90 are nominated as the main choice:** Mexico, Italy, Australia, Spain (gravel stages)

**Rallies where the S4/S80 are nominated as the main choice:** Argentina, Poland, Portugal, Finland, Wales

### The MICHELIN LTX Force S4/H4 (for WRC crews)

**Number of tyres available for Rally Australia:** 560

**Number of tyres per driver:** 24 (20 + 4 spares) from an overall allocation of 24 H4s (hard compound) and 16 S4s (soft)

### The MICHELIN LTX Force S80/H90 (for WRC2 crews)

**Number of tyres available for Rally Australia:** 160

**Number of tyres per driver:** 26 from an overall allocation of 26 H90s (hard compound) and 16 S80s (soft)

**Total number of Michelin tyres available for Rally Australia (WRC+WRC2):** 720

### Michelin's staff for Kennards Hire Rally Australia

- 1 manager
- 3 team advisors
- 2 coordinators
- 5 fitters
- 1 press officer



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