

RUSSELL KEEN TO END FIRST HALF STRONGLY

Aaren Russell heads to Townsville this weekend eager to consolidate what he has learned in the first half of his rookie Supercars campaign.

The street circuit in far-north Queensland will host the seventh of the year's 14 events, and the 14th and 15th of the 29 races.

The Novocastrian has worked his way into the demanding championship in his Plus Fitness Commodore, finding qualifying gains in the latest round at Darwin's Hidden Valley Raceway.

Back on a street circuit for the first time since the season opener in Adelaide in March, Russell rates Townsville as one of his favourite venues.

Townsville was the scene of a breakout performance in the second-tier Dunlop Series in 2013, when he finished fourth in the opening race and fifth for the weekend, then his best result in the series.

This weekend's event starts with a pair of 40-minute practice sessions on Friday, followed by 20-minute qualifying sessions and 70-lap races on Saturday and Sunday.

AAREN RUSSELL - #4 PLUS FITNESS COMMODORE

"I love racing on street circuits, they are always a fantastic challenge for a driver.

"I was able to record some good results in the Dunlop Series in Townsville, 2013 stands out in particular as my best race and round finishes in the class at that time. Then fourth in the first race in 2014 really turned that campaign around.

"This weekend is about keeping it all together and building on what I have learned over the first half of the season, which has genuinely been a lot.

"Heading to another track I know and enjoy helps that process and, in recent years, the Walkinshaw Racing-built cars have been stronger on street circuits than at many other places.

"We have made good progress with the Plus Fitness Commodore in a short period of time, so if we can add to that this weekend we'll head into the winter break with our heads held high."

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