



Mr Moffat ... no comment

Cannonball future: backers are silent

By CAP CHANDLER

Cannonball Run backers yesterday maintained their silence on the future of the event.

But a magazine feature released this week on organiser Allan Moffat indicates that a re-run could be in doubt.

The high-performance car event in May claimed four lives in an NT accident.

All parties involved in the event have refused to comment on the possibility of a second Cannonball until inquiries into the first run are complete.

Feature

The first feature article on retired touring car racing champion and Cannonball organiser Mr Moffat since the fatal accident was published in the latest edition of *Wheels* magazine.

The report said Mr Moffat was unable to comment on the tragedy, because of a coming NT inquest and a Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS) inquiry which was in progress.

A four-day coronial hearing into the fatal crash south of Alice Springs on May 24 is scheduled to start in Darwin Magistrates Court on October 10.

CAMS administrators



Mr Perron ... awaiting inquiry

all Australian motorsport and set down the safety guidelines for the Cannonball Run.

A spokesman for Chief Minister Marshall Perron — a renowned motoring enthusiast and strong supporter of the Cannonball initially — said he had also refused to make a decision on future runs until after the inquest.

Mr Perron told Parliament last month that the Cannonball Run had cost Territory taxpayers \$203 939.

Those killed in the accident were leading driver Japanese dentist Akihiro Kabe, and his navigator Takeshi Okano, in his \$1 million Ferrari, which slammed into a checkpoint.

The other two were volunteer race officials Tim Linklater, 22, and Keith Pritchard, 21.