



MEDIA RELEASE

SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY HUB

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Far North is putting its support behind the Far North Regional Community and Sporting Hub in Port Augusta, locally known as the Central Oval Redevelopment.

The project received \$5million of funding under the Commonwealth Government's Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) Round 2, which was announced in July 2012.

Ms Jen Cleary, Chairperson of RDA Far North said the federal funding, together with the funding leveraged from State and Local Government, shows real support and confidence for the project.

"Our RDA Board has no hesitation in supporting this project," Ms Cleary said.

"It provides a sports and community hub for Port Augusta residents and for the wider region, neighbouring towns and regional centres."

"The construction of a multi-purpose community facility will provide the region with greater capacity to attract larger conferences and events which currently bypass Port Augusta. A three or four day event in the city means a significant economic boost to the local economy. It is important that people realise this development is not just about sport. It is a first class, multi-function facility that has the potential to deliver significant and ongoing economic benefits to Port Augusta and the broader region. Clearly, there is a recognised need for such a facility, as this project was one of four major priorities in the SA Government Strategic Infrastructure Plan for South Australia. It is a bold and visionary move by Council, and demonstrates the kind of innovative thinking we need if we are to diversify and secure the local economic base."

Ms Cleary also said that Council approval for the project is a step forward.

"Now that Council has formally approved the project, construction works at the site should commence shortly. RDA Far North has offered Council its ongoing support in developing the full potential of the new facility."

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