

# Riverfront club attracts Federal cash

■ Josh Nyman

A Regional Development Australia grant will fund almost a quarter of a bold project in Denmark that aims to embrace the town's riverfront and engage the community through sport.

Last week RDA announced Denmark Riverside Club — a consortium of four existing sporting clubs — was successful in its application for \$500,000 through round-three funding.

Consortium chairman Alan Davis said plans to integrate Denmark Bowling Club into a new sporting facility built on the eastern bank of the Denmark River would create a “hub for community activity”.

He said the funding, along with \$490,000 committed by the Shire of Denmark and funds raised by club members, provided “seed capital” and would finance 68 per cent of the project's \$2.2 million first construction stage, due to start early next year.

“When you take a walk along the river and see the new interactive playground and how the river is being utilised, I think our lot will develop the blank spot,” he said.

“It will integrate so well with the rest of the river developments and together with the others it will provide a significant community resource. I can see it becoming a hub for community activity.”

RDA Great Southern executive officer Simon Lyas said funding was a “good win” for the Denmark and greater region.

“Any successful application that gets funding and resources into the



An artist's impression of Denmark Riverside Club and its bowling greens, upon completion. Pictures: Pixel Trix

region is a win-win,” he said. “That particular project obviously impressed the Feds, as it did us ... it was a very sound, robust and viable long-term business plan that stacked up as a very worthwhile, viable proposition.”

Mr Lyas said the club's multi-use recreational perspective, spread of prospective clientele and ability to pool existing community groups' resources were key components.

Shire chief executive Dale Stewart said he was “over the moon” about the grant.

“It will be a major opportunity to co-ordinate and allocate a number of sporting and cultural groups

with a common theme around the Denmark River,” he said.

“There will be other advantages that flow from the development.”

Mr Stewart said these included a venue for cultural, sporting and artistic events, and an entrance statement to the town's CBD.

Denmark Riverside Club and the Shire will turn their focus to securing up to \$680,000 from the Department of Sport and Recreation CSRFF round-four funding stream, open until September.

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The new clubhouse will embrace the Denmark River and be called home by four existing sporting clubs.