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# Regional projects in line for Federal funds



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GUIDELINES for round five of the Regional Development Australia Fund were announced last month as anticipated.

Unlike earlier rounds in the RDAF program, round five does not direct funds to a small number of projects – instead it spreads the goodies between all local authorities, \$105 million to rural local governments across Australia and \$45 million to our major cities.

Denmark's share – providing it can find a shovel-ready project – is \$75,609.

Round five represents the final slice of the \$1 billion of Federal funds distributed since 2007 to build and renew community infrastructure and comes on top of \$2 billion provided annually to local government through Financial Assistance Grants and the \$350 million annually for local roads through the Roads to Recovery.

So the 'good news' is that Federal support for social infrastructure projects such as aquatic facilities is (or has been) available.

Federal support of this kind is critical to the Denmark Aquatic Centre.

DACCI had hoped that the council could compete for a significant grant under round 5 of the RDAF program so it's disappointing that the funds available will be spread around rather than being focused into a few worthy projects.

Even so, it was heartening to listen to the Minister's round 5 announcement that targeted community swimming pools as the prime example of community infrastruc-

ture worthy of such Federal support.

As if on cue, Cockburn received \$10 million towards its 10-lane outdoor swimming/water polo pool, a 25m indoor pool plus other aquatic facilities such as hydrotherapy, children's activities and recovery pools.

The \$114 million initial investment in the project will generate a total increase in economic output estimated at \$339 million.

The Minister also announced successful round 4 outcomes for two of the three projects from the Great Southern.

Albany's Centennial Park received \$8.25 million for its \$27 million sporting complex featuring a premium AFL oval with lights and grandstand, a new AFL-sized secondary oval, 11 soccer fields, five cricket pitches, a new hockey field and new community parkland area.

Mt Barker scored \$1 million for its \$9.5 million Souness Park sporting facilities that will involve the installation of a new synthetic hockey pitch with competition-standard lighting, a new cricket and soccer oval, and cricket nets.

This project will support a shire population of 5064 people and a growing regional population of 58,851.

Claiming that for every dollar spent in WA towards sporting and recreation facilities, \$6.51 is generated in total economic activity, the economic return on investment in this project will equate to \$61.8 million across the region.

Is it time for our council to take a look at the positive side of the proposed Denmark Aquatic Centre?

**Cyril Edwards,**  
**DACCI President.**

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