

Albany Advertiser

Sport to suffer in RDA cuts

The potential loss of significant Federal funding to the two major sporting projects in the region would be a major blow (Page 1).

After the Federal Government confirmed to the *Albany Advertiser* this week that \$8.25 million of Regional Development Australia funding committed to the Centennial Park Sporting Precinct and \$1 million to the Sounness Park redevelopment would be reassessed, there are now serious doubts about when the funding will be made available and when the long-awaited projects will be delivered.

Before the Federal election last month, now Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss hinted that projects which had received previous RDA funding may not be honoured if not at contract stage.

While they are yet to receive any formal confirmation, according to a spokesman for Mr Truss, the City of Albany and Shire of Plantagenet will have their funding applications reassessed.

Worst case scenario is that they would be required to resubmit funding applications - a process that can take months - that could be rejected.

On the eve of the start of construction of stage one of Centennial Park and well into construction of stage one of Sounness Park, it would be a bitter pill to swallow if funding was not forthcoming.

The Centennial Park project has been talked about for 35 years, recently received passionate response during the community consultation period and is all-the-talk amongst sporting groups.

Hopefully new Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson can help the Government see the value of these projects to his electorate and the community won't have to wait many more years before they see these facilities come to fruition

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