

# Cash confirmed for major sport projects

■ **Tim Edmunds**

Three major sporting infrastructure projects in the Great Southern which were plunged into doubt after the potential loss of millions of dollars of funding will now get their cash.

Albany's long-awaited \$42 million Centennial Park Sporting Precinct redevelopment, Mt Barker's

\$9.5 million Souness Park development and the \$2.2 million Denmark Riverside Club each received allocated funds through the Regional Development Australia Fund earlier this year.

But doubts were raised when it was revealed by the *Albany Advertiser* in October that the Federal Government was reviewing funding pledges made by the previous

government which had not reached contract stage.

As a result, the \$8.25 million funding to the Centennial Park project, \$1 million to Souness Park and \$500,000 to the Denmark project were left in limbo.

After two months of uncertainty, Member for O'Connor Rick Wilson announced on Tuesday the Federal Government would commit the

funding to the three project through the newly established Community Development Grant Program.

The City of Albany had been waiting anxiously for a response after querying their funding status with Federal Infrastructure Minister Warren Truss.

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## Project funds get green light

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City of Albany community services executive director Cameron Woods said the City was delighted to learn the news and contracts were being prepared for signing.

"This is a major project for Albany and we are very pleased to hear the funding promised by the previous government will be honoured by the current government," he said.

Design works for a multi-purpose field behind PCYC and an upgrade of the lighting at the Railways Football Club will go out for tender in January and February respectively, and are expected to be completed in March.

Mr Woods said due to "overwhelming response" from the community consultation process, 6ha at the junction of Lockyer Avenue and Cockburn Road would not be rezoned for commercial purposes, and instead

retained and incorporated into the master plan.

Retail giant Woolworths was last year linked to the site.

"The City will continue to consult the main stakeholders in the minor amendments and include a traffic management study in the consultant's design to assist with addressing parking concerns," Mr Woods said.

Shire of Denmark chief executive Dale Stewart said the Shire was "most relieved" at the announcement and construction on the \$2.2 million Riverside Club could potentially start in July.

Mr Stewart said he was hopeful in obtaining the remaining \$680,000 from the State Government's Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund in February.

The first stage of Mt Barker's Souness Park project is due for completion early next year.