

Entertainment centre plan hit by freeze

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A PLAN to build an entertainment centre in Katanning has hit a further snag following news last week the Federal Government was freezing future rounds of the Regional Development Australia Fund.

The Shire of Katanning was unsuccessful in applying for \$16 million for the entertainment centre

in round two of the RDAF program in July, and had intended to reapply in the next round, but it is now not known when that will be.

Executive officer of the Great Southern arm of the program Simon Lyas said he was disappointed the funding program was being delayed.

No money went to the Great Southern region in the July grant announcements, with the Centennial

Park redevelopment in Albany and a sporting precinct upgrade in Mt Barker also unsuccessful.

Last Thursday, Nationals Senator Barnaby Joyce raised concerns about the future of the RDAF program and accused the State Government of redirecting funding to a new national dental care scheme.

Minister for Regional Development Simon Crean confirmed the Government had placed a freeze on

the program, but remained adamant it was temporary and future funding rounds would still happen.

"I think freeze is one way of expressing (it)... I think the more correct way is to say that what we're doing is a stocktake of all the programs," he said.

Mr Crean did not put forward a timeframe for the "stock take" process.

Katanning Shire chief executive

Dean Taylor said they intended to reapply for funds for the entertainment centre when the RDAF program resumed.

"It is disappointing that we missed out ... and we will apply again when they introduce another round," he said.

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