

the extra



Dog attack warning

Page 4

Grant applications failed

KEIR TUNBRIDGE

THE City of Albany and the Shire of Plantagenet were disappointed to learn significant Federal funding requests for their respective major sporting precinct overhauls were unsuccessful this week.

None of the three Great Southern projects shortlisted for Federal Regional Development Australia funding were successful, despite expectations at least one would receive RDA money.

Katanning also missed out on

funding for its planned Upper Great Southern regional entertainment centre.

A \$15 million grant to the Shire of Carnarvon for flood mitigation took up most of the last chunk of this round of RDA funding, announced by Regional Australia Minister Simon Crean on Tuesday.

A total of \$200 million was allocated to projects Australia-wide in the second round of funding.

Shire of Plantagenet chief executive Rob Stewart did not begrudge Carnarvon receiving

money for its flood projects, but still slammed the decision.

Mr Stewart questioned why only four projects in WA were funded, compared with 15 in New South Wales.

"I thought our major competition would be our large regional neighbour of Albany," he said.

"If Albany had been successful, this still would have benefited the people of the Great Southern."

Mr Stewart said the planned \$9 million redevelopment of the Sounness Park sporting precinct

would still go ahead, but missing out on the funding would make it more difficult.

Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the news was disappointing, but maintained the City would explore other funding options.

Mr Wellington said the planned \$13 million overhaul of the Centennial Park sporting precinct would move forward and the City would apply for future RDA funding rounds.

RDA Great Southern executive officer Simon Lyas had expected

one of the Great Southern projects to be funded and said he was also disappointed.

Mr Lyas said it would have been a tough call to allocate \$15 million towards a single project, but said there were no sour grapes.

"(Flood mitigation) is a big and critical piece of infrastructure for Carnarvon so good luck to them for getting that," he said.

Mr Lyas encouraged the unsuccessful Great Southern projects to apply for a future round of RDA funding.



Big crowds for races

Brock Christinger (12)