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Saleyards get \$7m boost

BRIAN OLIVER

WORK on the Katanning saleyards will start immediately after the Federal Government committed \$7.24 million towards the \$25 million project last week.

Regional Australia Minister Simon Crean announced last week the saleyards were one of 35 successful applicants in round one of the Regional Development Australia Fund.

Katanning shire chief executive Dean Taylor said the funding, on

top of the State Government's \$17 million commitment, was a positive announcement for the long-awaited project.

"The Shire of Katanning has been trying to get funding for the project for this for more than 10 years," he said. "The announcement by RDAF means we have secured funding for the project."

Mr Taylor said the shire's original \$21.6 million costing for the saleyard to hold one million sheep per year was now too small.

More farmers were sending

their sheep to be sold in Katanning because it was closer than Muchea, he said. He said a design had been done to hold between 1.25-1.5 million sheep per year at a cost of between \$24-\$25 million.

"Now we will have a larger facility and it will futureproof our saleyards," Mr Taylor said.

"In five to 10 years' time we won't have to go back to Government and ask for more money to extend the saleyards."

Mr Taylor said the shire received initial approval from the

Department of Environment and Conservation to progress with the project last week.

RDA Great Southern chairman Milton Evans said the Federal Government funding announcement was a fantastic result for the Shire of Katanning.

"The sheep saleyards project will be a fantastic development for Katanning and will deliver many benefits to the Great Southern," he said.

Mr Evans said the project would also deliver sustainable economic

and social benefits for the community in the future.

The shire aimed to use local trades and businesses for the project which was expected to open early 2013.

The new saleyards will require 147km of steel pipe, 5000cum of concrete, 25,000cum of gravel and 60,000sqm of bitumen.

It will be the only saleyard in Australia to provide water to sheep in selling pens and will have a sophisticated wastewater treatment system.

Wand...