

14 February 2013

RDAF Projects in Great Southern move to next stage of assessment

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Great Southern has welcomed the announcement of the projects proceeding to full application stage for Rounds Three and Four of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF).

Round Three is worth \$50 million and will provide grants of between \$50,000 and \$500,000 for projects located in towns with a population of 30,000 or less.

Round Four will allocate \$175 million through grants of between \$500,000 and \$15 million for priority regional infrastructure projects that also leverage funding from state and local governments and the private sector.

The projects selected to proceed to the final stage of the application process will deliver real benefits to local communities. RDA Great Southern went through a lengthy decision making process and selected projects that meet clearly identified regional priorities. RDA Great Southern's Chair Milton Evans noted the high quality of the Expressions of Interest received in both rounds.

"We received a number of high quality project proposals and it took some two and a half hours deliberation by the Committee to finalise the projects to proceed to the full application stage," Milton said.

"The rigorous assessment process undertaken by our Committee took into account the priorities of our Regional Plan, the needs of the community and the positive short and long term impacts of the projects."

"A total of eight projects were identified from both rounds to proceed to full application in the Great Southern."

Round Three:

- **Shire of Plantagenet:** Collet Barker Court – Independent Living Units for Seniors
- **Shire of Jerramungup:** Bremer Bay Town Centre
- **Shire of Denmark:** Denmark Riverside Club Inc. Stage 1 – Construction of a New Multi-User Clubhouse/Function Centre
- **Green Skills Inc:** Construction of the Denmark Environment Centre Office and Community Meeting Facilities
- **Shire of Katanning:** Upper Great Southern Regional Entertainment Centre: Katanning Hall Restoration

Round Four:

- **Great Southern Community Housing Association Inc:** Norman House Affordable Student Housing
- **City of Albany:** Great Southern Centennial Park Arena
- **Shire of Plantagenet:** Sounness Park Community Recreation Development

A full list of projects selected to proceed to full application under both rounds can be viewed at www.regional.gov.au.

The closing dates for full applications are Wednesday 27 March 2013 for Round Three and Thursday 11 April 2013 for Round Four. The Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport will use a merit-based assessment process to assess all applications.

Eligible applications compliant with the guidelines will then be assessed by an independent Advisory Panel and successful projects will be announced from June onwards.

The RDAF is worth almost \$1 billion over five years and is part of the Australian Government's commitment to regional Australia.

For questions relating to the application and assessment process please contact RDA Great Southern's Executive Officer Simon Lyas on (08) 9842 5800 or rdaf@regional.gov.au.

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