

# Council to revisit Riverside plan

THE Denmark Shire Council will reconsider the Riverside project at the November 27 meeting in time for an expression of interest for funding due on December 6.

Riverside Clubs Project chairman Alan Davis and representative Geoff Bowley spoke to the council on November 6 about the proposal involving a \$2.2 million multi-club facility on the Denmark River.

At the September 25 meeting, the council did not back the project on the basis councillors wanted to sight the Shire's draft long-term financial plan due to be completed at the end of June next year.

Without Shire support the project could not be submitted to a Sport and Recreation Department round of funding due on September 30.

Since then, Regional Development Australia Great Southern executive officer Simon Lys has informed Mr Davis that expressions of interest must be submitted by December 6 for another funding round.

In a letter to the Shire, Mr Davis writes how the Riverside project has been accepted on RDA's projects register for the Great Southern.

"We are keen to submit a funding application for

stage one of our project," Mr Davis writes.

"This can only be achieved if council agrees to act as sponsor because the club (Denmark Riverside Club) does not meet the required annual turnover to act alone."

The Denmark Riverside Club has recently incorporated with member clubs from bowling club, the dragon boating, and canoe and classic boating amalgamating.

In his letter, Mr Davis writes how the December 6 deadline for the expressions of interest may require the council to act as sponsor (finalising the decision this month) without seeing the completed proposal.

RDA would provide 50 per cent of the funding towards the project with the council expected to make a contribution of \$552,875, to be split over two years with the amount for each year being finalised.

In the previous application the Shire's contribution would have been \$773,833.

Shire president Ross Thornton said if the council gave support to the project this would be subject to conditions such as the budget process, the Shire's 10-year financial plan and Country Local Government Funding.

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