



Divers want own program

AQUATICS |
DUANE SCHULTZ

UP TO 50 northern-based divers may be lost to the sport when the state's elite diving program moves from North Adelaide to the new SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre at Marion, Diving SA says.

The move, to happen in May, means some divers in Adelaide's northern and north-eastern suburbs face a two hour plus round trip to training and will have to travel an extra 28km for each session.

Diving SA president **Paul Bugg** said the move away from the Adelaide Aquatic Centre meant a number of of Diving SA's members, especially in the north, may pull out of the sport.

He called for Adelaide City Council, the owners of the Adelaide Aquatic Centre, to allow a separate arm of the program to operate at North Adelaide.

"The reason behind that is a lot of people who are current members and live in the north side of the city will not travel to Marion because of the distance," Bugg said. "We anticipate we could lose up to 30 per cent of our members (about 50 divers)."

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Adelaide City Council planned to transform the Aquatics Centre's diving pool, where state teams previously trained, into a leisure pool. Renovations on the centre began this month and will be completed in 16 weeks, during which time the pool will be closed.

An Adelaide City Council spokeswoman said the council was working with Diving SA regarding the proposal to leave an arm of the elite program at North Adelaide, but would not make guarantees one way or the other.

"Council is working with user groups to see how the proposed changes at North Adelaide might affect them in the short term and how the dive pool and towers can be best utilised when the Centre reopens in July," she said.