

Wednesday, 29 April 2009

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR STATE AQUATIC CENTRE

Adelaide is a step closer to becoming world swimming's latest destination after the Rann Government today awarded a contract to build the State Aquatic Centre and GP Plus at Marion.

Sports Minister, Michael Wright, said the State Government had contracted South Australian construction company, Candetti Constructions Pty Ltd, who will now complete the final design of the projects.

"We are delighted to be working with a South Australian company to deliver the people of this State an international sporting venue and also generate 300 jobs in the process," Minister Wright said.

Marion Mayor, Felicity-ann Lewis said it was great news. "We welcome the announcement that this important step has been taken. We are very excited that the project is progressing so quickly since the State Government announced it would fully fund it. This is a significant development for the State as a whole, and also for the Marion community," She said.

Minister Wright said, "Adelaide will now boast aquatics facilities of a world-class standard and there's the added bonus for the local community of construction of a GP Plus health care centre within the precinct."

"We gave a commitment in February that this project wouldn't fall victim to the global recession and I want to reaffirm that South Australia's FINA compliant aquatic centre will be open for business next year. The awarding of this contract sets in stone the future of aquatics in South Australia, especially for those involved in swimming, diving and water polo at the elite level."

"This is yet another example of our commitment to action now for the future and is further evidence of South Australia defying the global downturn by remaining well and truly open for business," Minister Wright said.

Construction is scheduled to start in this financial year to enable both projects to be completed in 2010 with the GP Plus Health Care Centre expected to be complete in the first half of next year and the Aquatic Centre in the second.

The State Government will now work closely with Candetti Constructions, The City of Marion, and aquatic architects Peddle Thorp - recognised for their work on the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre and other aquatic facilities in Malaysia and New Zealand.

Specific design details will be incorporated into the new State Aquatic Centre including:

- Increasing the depth of the of the main swimming pool to three metres;
- Increasing the seating capacity to 4,500
- Installing a depth adjustable pool floor for leisure water/learn to swim activities.

With contributions from the Federal Government (\$15 million) The City of Marion Council (land and \$5 million) the project will be delivered at a cost of just over \$100 million.