



\$250,000 boost for squash in Barossa

The Barossa could soon play host to national squash tournaments, with six new custom-built courts to be constructed at the Rex.

The major partnership between The Barossa Council and Squash SA will see six ASB courts with moveable internal walls built as part of the \$15.5 million aquatic and fitness facility at Tanunda.

The courts are due to open later this year as part of Stage 3 of the project, which also includes a crèche/youth space, multi-purpose fitness facilities, changing rooms and dedicated spin room.

Squash SA General Manager Phil Sinnott said their Board has approved \$250,000 for the project, with final paperwork being completed.

A new dedicated Squash SA Development Officer for the Barossa, Des Panizza, will help devise programs to make the courts flexible and accessible.

"This state-of-the-art design incorporates movable walls, which enables the space to be used for a number of different activities such as dance, fitness classes, gymnasias, table tennis and exhibition spaces," Mr Sinnott said.

He believes the new courts will drive a resurgence of squash and racquetball in the north.

"Our goal is to strategically invest in school and council-owned facilities to grow the sport across the state, especially in growth areas such as the north," he said.

"The centre is within walking distance of schools, and will service a rapidly growing commuter and rural population."

Mayor Brian Hurn said the partnership would have long-term community and health benefits.

"I have no doubt this project will see more children, adults and seniors participating in squash, translating to improved health and fitness outcomes for our community," he said.

"The opportunity to host premier squash events will also provide a massive economic boost locally."

To find out more about squash visit www.squashsa.asn.au or for information about programs and membership at the Rex contact 8563 2766.

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For further information please contact:

Phil Sinnott
General Manager, Squash SA
P: (08) 8377 7476
phil.sinnott@squashsa.asn.au

Joanne Thomas
Director Corporate and Community Services, The Barossa Council
(08) 8563 8450
jthomas@barossa.sa.gov.au