

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Grant boosts saleyard project

Katanning's \$25 million sheep saleyard project received a \$7 million boost in the first round of funding through the Commonwealth Government's Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) announced on Wednesday 7 September.

The Shire of Katanning gained \$7.42 million towards the project, adding to \$17 million of State Government Royalties for Regions funding announced in July.

Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning said the saleyard project had strategic importance for the region.

"The Shire of Katanning is to be congratulated on the strength and success of its application for the long-sought relocation of its saleyards from the centre of town to a more suitable site," Mr Manning said.

"This Commonwealth grant secures funding arrangements for the project, which will provide a sustainable saleyard serving a large percentage of the State's sheep producers.

"Katanning did well to gain the full amount requested when the fund was hotly contested and only 35 projects were funded out of 550 applications Australia-wide," Mr Manning said.

Four projects were funded in Western Australia and the Katanning saleyard project was the only successful application in the South West of the State.

Katanning's new saleyards will be built by 2013 on a 10-hectare site east of the town and will include 2.7 hectares of roofed holding pens.

Regional Australia Minister Simon Crean announced successful grants totalling \$150 million as the first round of the \$1 billion RDAF.

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