

News Release

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Government
of South Australia

Minister Assist. Premier with South Australia's Strategic Plan

Hon Tom Kenyon

Minister for Recreation, Sport & Racing

Minister for Road Safety

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Thursday, 10 March 2011

PREFERRED OPERATOR FOR NEW SA AQUATIC AND LEISURE CENTRE

Sport and Recreation Minister, Tom Kenyon today announced the YMCA as the preferred operator for the new international standard South Australian Aquatic and Leisure Centre at Marion.

“The YMCA is an experienced not-for-profit operator of aquatic and community facilities and is well suited to operate this important addition to the South Australian sporting landscape,” Mr Kenyon said.

“They’ll be in charge of operating a world class centre designed to meet the needs of all users – young children learning to swim, youth and families enjoying active entertainment, elite athletes in training and competition, and people of all ages using the water for fitness and health.

“The centre will be Australia’s premier aquatic and leisure facility, featuring a 50-metre main competition pool, and a Diving and Water Polo pool built to meet the international standards of the world aquatics governing body, FINA.

“It also incorporates around 1000 square metres of leisure and recreational water, including a six lane, 25m community program pool, a dedicated learn to swim pool and community leisure water with a wet deck and play equipment and toddler pool.

“Seating for 4,500 spectators has been designed to ensure the best possible viewing experience for competition in diving, swimming and water polo.

“The centre has already resulted in SA securing a number of national and international events, including the 2011 Australian Short Course Swimming Championships, 2012 World Life Saving Championships and 2012 World Junior Diving Championships.

“The first event to be held at the centre will be the Australian Age Swimming Championships from the April 18-23, with the venue opening to the public in the following week.

“The new centre will provide around 250 new local jobs with the YMCA now focussed on recruiting staff members in a range of management and service roles including facilities and functions managers, aquatics education and lifeguards,” Mr Kenyon said.

YMCA spokesman Peter Schwarz said the YMCA has over 150 years of experience in providing recreational opportunities to Australians.

“We share the State Government’s commitment to encouraging community engagement in physical activity to enhance their quality of life,” Mr Schwartz said.