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SA WINS MAJOR DIVING EVENT

The world's best young divers will be on show at the new State Aquatic Centre, when Adelaide hosts the 19th FINA World Diving Junior Championships in 2012.

Tourism Minister Jane Lomax-Smith says she is delighted to announce that the International Swimming Federation (FINA) has just signed the contract officially awarding Diving Australia the rights to stage the prestigious event in South Australia.

“This will be the first time these Championships are held in Australia, and the State Government, through the South Australian Tourism Commission, has worked closely with Diving Australia to win the event for Adelaide,” Dr Lomax-Smith says.

“The event will bring more than 500 visitors to our State, including more than 200 of the world's best young divers, representing more than 40 countries.

“The State Aquatic Centre will seat 4500 spectators, and this event will be a true treat for South Australians who want to see future Olympic divers in action.”

Diving Australia Chairman Ashley Wilson says winning the bid for the prestigious 19th FINA World Diving Junior Championships was largely made possible by the standard and facilities of the fantastic new State Aquatic Centre.

“I am over the moon that we were able to win this bid,” Mr Wilson says.

“As an Adelaide based member of Diving Australia's board, I have been personally involved in the Marion Aquatic centre project from its inception. To know that the facility is well under construction and to see it taking shape is a tremendous opportunity for our sport.

“I believe that hosting the 19th FINA World Diving Junior Championships is only the beginning and a springboard to many more prestigious international diving events, to be held in coming years at this world class facility.”

Dr Lomax-Smith says Adelaide can also look forward to hosting almost 4000 swimmers, coaches, family and friends, who will be visiting South Australia in 2011 for the Australian Age Championships, to be held at the State Aquatic Centre from 26 April – 1 May.

The 2012 FINA World Diving Junior Championships will run for 10 days, including six days of competition and four days of training, with the date yet to be finalised, but likely to be in October 2012.

Dr Lomax Smith says South Australia has an excellent track record for staging major events, including an ever-growing line-up of international sporting events such as the Santos Tour Down Under, the Clipsal 500 Adelaide and the International Rugby Sevens Adelaide.

“Hosting events has not only raised our State’s international profile as a tourism destination, but injected many millions of tourism dollars into South Australia’s economy,” she says.