



Monday, 23 May 2011

SOUTH AUSTRALIA TO HOST OLYMPIC SWIMMING TRIALS

South Australia has won the right to host three major swimming meets, including the 2012 Australian Swimming Championships – the selection trials for the London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Swimming Australia announced today that South Australia had also been successful in securing the 2013 Australian Swimming Championships and the 2013 Australian Age Championships.

The 2012 Australian Swimming Championships will take place on 15-22 March at the newly opened SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre at Marion.

This win means South Australia has now secured eight major events at the SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Tourism John Rau said winning the three major swimming events was a “coup for South Australia”.

“Hosting the likes of Ian Thorpe, Geoff Huegill and Libby Trickett as they battle for Olympic selection will be fantastic for South Australia,” Mr Rau said.

“We are also excited to be hosting the 2013 Australian Swimming Championships and the 2013 Australian Age Swimming Championships. It is a huge vote of confidence in our new swimming facilities.”

The economic benefit of the 2012 and 2013 Australian Swimming Championships has been estimated at more than \$4.5 million per event, with the 2013 Australian Age Swimming Championships predicted to be worth more than \$3.5 million.

“Securing these events reinforces the value of our investment in the new State Aquatic & Leisure Centre,” Mr Rau said.

“The national championships will be a great boost for the local tourism industry, attracting thousands of people to our State, including athletes, coaches, support staff, officials, media and visitors.

“In addition to attracting visitors, the championships will generate significant media coverage both nationally and internationally and will also be broadcast live across Australia.”

The SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre at Marion opened in April, receiving strong approval from the athletes, coaches and general public who attended the 2011 Australian Age Swimming Championships, the first major event to be held there.

The attention will soon return to centre with the Australian Short Course Swimming Championships to be held from 1-3 July.

Swimming South Australia General Manager Craig Hobart said today’s announcement was just another great step for the sport which has enjoyed a fantastic start to the year.

“We’ve opened a great new facility, hosted the Age Championships and are now preparing for the Short Course Championships in early July,” Mr Hobart said.

“To earn the right to host the 2012 and 2013 Australian Championships and selection trials is a huge boost for swimming in South Australia and everyone is really looking forward to putting on some great events.”

MEDIA NOTE: John Rau and Craig Hobart will be available for interview at 1.15pm at the SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre, corner of Diagonal and Morphett Roads, Marion.

MAJOR UPCOMING AUSTRALIAN SWIMMING EVENTS

2011

- Australian Short Course Swimming Championships – SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre – July 1-3.
- 13th Australian Masters Games – SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre – October 7-16.

2012

- Australian Swimming Championships – SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre – March 15-22.
- FINA World Junior Diving Championships – SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre – October 9-13.
- Rescue 2012, Life Saving World Championships (the pool components of this event will be held at the pool) SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre – November 4-18.

2013

- Australian Swimming Championships – SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre – exact dates TBC.
- Australian Age Swimming Championships – SA Aquatic & Leisure Centre – exact dates TBC.