

Thursday, 18 February 2010

ADELAIDE TO HOST AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY GAMES

South Australia has added another event to the State's sporting calendar, with a successful bid to host the Australian University Games in 2012 and 2018.

Tourism Minister Jane Lomax-Smith says the event will attract thousands of people to South Australia and will profile the State as a tourism destination.

"I'm delighted that South Australia will host the Australian University Games in both 2012 and 2018," says Dr Lomax-Smith.

"The 2012 event is expected to attract more than 5,000 participants to South Australia to compete in over 30 sports ranging from athletics and basketball to tennis and water polo.

"The program of events will take place across Adelaide and will utilise our world-class sporting facilities including the West Lakes Rowing Course and the new State Aquatic Centre.

"Off the sporting field, the thousands of participants will have the opportunity to tour our State's great regions and experience the very best of South Australia."

Since its inception in 1993, the Australian University Games (AUG) has grown to be Australia's largest annual multi-sport event.

Held each September/October, the games are renowned for providing a friendly but competitive environment for Australian university athletes and are the flagship event on the national university sporting calendar.

Australian University Sport President, Professor Richard Larkins, says he is excited about bringing the Australian University Games to South Australia.

"We have received a pleasing level of support and encouragement from Events South Australia, and have every confidence that Adelaide can provide top class sporting facilities, and an aesthetically pleasing environment in which to host the more than 5,000 interstate student-athletes who will participate in the iconic Australian University Games," Professor Richard Larkins says.

"South Australia is a great sporting State, and the AUG is a great sporting event – this should make for a very successful Games formula."

South Australia has hosted the Australian University Games on two previous occasions, in 2002 and 2006.

"The Australian University Games is another great addition to the State's thriving events calendar," says Dr Lomax-Smith.