



# MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

Attention: News Editor/Chief of Staff

18/05/05

### **Champion Lakes begins to fill**

Water has started to flow for the first time into the large man-made basin that will become the showcase Champion Lakes recreational development near Armadale.

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan today activated a pump that will deliver water from a 700m deep bore.

“Getting the water flowing today is a key step in the creation of a showcase recreational development that will ultimately be able to host State, national and international events and be a training ground for WA and international athletes to Olympic level,” Ms MacTiernan said.

The State Government used the opportunity that came from the construction of the Tonkin Highway to excavate the 2.2 km rowing course, which was then lined with high-density plastic covered with 500mm of clay.

Ms MacTiernan was joined by ARA Chairman Gerry Gauntlett and Armadale Mayor Linton Reynolds in inspecting the lake as the water began to flow.

It will take about nine months for the water from the Yarragadee aquifer to fill Champion Lakes with 2.8 gegalitres of non-potable water – the equivalent of 100,000 backyard swimming pools.

Ms MacTiernan said that the rowing, dragon-boating and canoeing course was the first phase of the proposed development.

“Other potential uses include a whitewater facility for canoeing, kayaking and rafting incorporating a children’s water park and a water safety training centre,” Minister MacTiernan said.

“I am very keen to establish a locally-based Champion Lakes Rowing Club.

“It is important that the local community gains maximum benefit from this great facility.

“Anyone interested in getting the club under way should contact my office.

“The ARA is also working on a master landscape plan that includes conservation of wetland habitat environments and sets new standards in environmental management and water-sensitive design.”

Other suggested developments include an Aboriginal Interpretative and Enterprise Centre, resort-style accommodation, a high-quality residential area, conference facilities and small-scale business and commercial activities.

“I also want to see local schools take up rowing in a big way and I will sponsor an annual ‘Head of the Lake’ competition,” Ms MacTiernan said.

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