

# \$400k grant kickstarts YP Field Days function centre



IT WILL accommodate training sessions, conferences, product launches and weddings, with seating for 100 people, full AV facilities, an adjoining commercial kitchen and an enclosed courtyard.

Primary Industries and Regional Development Minister Clare Scriven announced the Enabling Infrastructure Program grant on Friday, June 27.

"The new function centre will enhance the capabilities of the field days and other events, making the most of the site's size and strategic location with easy access from Adelaide and across the peninsula," Minister Scriven said.

Three full-time jobs will be created during construction, along with expected job opportunities in hospitality.

"It is anticipated that regular use of the field days site generated through the new facility will also provide direct economic benefit to the Paskeville community and have flow on benefits to the

adjacent towns of Moonta, Wallaroo and Kadina," Minister Scriven said.

YPFD president Greg Stevens welcomed the grant.

"It is a firm measure of support and confidence in regional SA," he said.

"The announcement has created much excitement amongst the YPFD committee and we are grateful for the government's support, so this project can now proceed to completion."

Mr Stevens said the new YPFD centre would be unlike most other function centres, as it would be able cater for agricultural industry events involving large machinery.

"Other centres don't have the space for a \$1.5 million header or a 21 metre air seeder bar, but we do," he said.

"The event participants will be able to have a look, climb over the machinery, learn about it and drive it."

He said the function centre could also attract major non-agricultural events, such

as caravan, camping and boating expos, and activities for hobby farmers.

"Our vision is that the field days site will be utilised at a much higher level," he said.

"In the eastern states, some field days sites are used almost every week."

Mr Stevens said the office complex, completed as stage one of the project, cost \$672,000 and was funded by YPFD and a \$200,000 loan from Copper Coast Council.

The function centre, stage two, is expected to cost around \$680,000.

In addition to the SA Government grant, it is supported by a second \$200,000 loan from CCC, and cash and in-kind contributions from companies, farming families and individuals.

Supporters include Australian Grain Technologies, which donated \$20,000, and Ahrens, FMC, Hallett Group, AW Vater and Co, and MacDon, which each contributed \$10,000.



**STRIKING...** An artist's impression of the completed function centre and office complex at the Yorke Peninsula Field Days site, Paskeville. Left: NEW HQ... Making the most of the new Yorke Peninsula Field Days office are chief executive Peter Anderson, bookkeeper Elizabeth Noom, president Greg Stevens and site bookings officer Chris Koch.