

PCYC's pre-poll windfall

By **MICHELE NUGENT**

IN another windfall of pre-election goodies for Rockingham, the Federal Government has committed \$880,000 towards a replacement PCYC facility in the city.

In a project estimated to be worth \$7.4 million, the 35-year-old hall in Smythe Street will be replaced with a purpose-built facility earmarked for the controversial vacant State Government-owned land next to the Waikiki substation on Read Street, valued at \$1.8 million.

WA Liberal Senator Mathias Cormann announced the funding at a hastily organised function at Rockingham council on Tuesday in a show of support for Brand Liberal candidate and City of Rockingham councillor Phil Edman.

Cr Edman, who helped organise the application to the Federal Government's Regional Partnerships program, said the money was not an election promise but an official commitment to a neglected area.

Before proceedings he said he favoured a site for the new PCYC near Aqua Jetty or Rockingham Se-

nior High School because they were close to popular youth meeting places.

In last week's *Weekend Courier*, Rockingham coastal ward councillor Leigh Liley spoke out against the Federation of PCYCs' preferred Read Street site, saying it was on a busy main road next to a potentially dangerous substation in a residential area with an ageing demographic.

Sen Cormann said the final location would be up to Rockingham council in consultation with the PCYC and the community.

LandCorp deputy operations manager Louise Ainsworth said Estill and Associates had been contracted to consult the community on future uses for the entire Read Street site from next month.

Rockingham council has requested Lotterywest commit \$700,000, LandCorp \$3.3 million, and private enterprise \$200,000 to add to its own \$500,000 contribution. PCYC state secretary Freddie Tan said the federation would provide \$100,000.

David Winter of Business Horizons, who helped prepare the funding application, said if all went to plan, the building could be completed by mid-2009.



Liberal candidate for Brand, Phil Edman, WA Senator Mathias Cormann and Rockingham Mayor Barry Sannels at this week's PCYC funding roll-out. Picture: Neil Mulligan

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