

Sustainable Communities 2023-24.

Case study: The Rural City of Murray Bridge



The Rural City of
**MURRAY
BRIDGE**

Sustainable Communities is all about telling a community's story, getting people together to help their local towns, schools and businesses, and fostering pride in achievements. It celebrates our connection to nature and each other.

Sharing initiatives is the focus of the Sustainable Community awards, supporting positive ripple effects to more areas of Australia and beyond.

During 2023-24 we saw multiple community projects that showed the linkage between caring for the environment and caring for human health, which is a key component of this case study.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge is located approximately 75 kilometres South East of Adelaide along the Mighty Murray River. It supports a regional community with primary industries including agriculture and raw food processing. It is a low socio-demographic area which can be challenging in one way but innovative in others.

The residential population of the main town is around 21,644, and Council's submission included collaborative work with Rotary groups, including approximately 23 individuals and over 800 hours.

Their submission included initiatives in the Council managed Lerwin Aged Care Facility and within the public realm. Four categories of appearance, amenities and facilities, environmental sustainability and education, natural environment management and resource recovery, waste management, litter prevention and enforcement were submitted for two major initiatives:

- **Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD):** managing water more responsibly, utilising stormwater and greening spaces with tree nets and additional vegetation whilst avoiding pollutants. This included upskilling staff and embedding more sustainable practices into ongoing practices.



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Bridge to Opportunity

- Waste and recycling initiatives: partnering with local Rotary Group to deliver kitchen caddies and information to avoid organic material in landfill, with over 400 caddies distributed by Rotary. Council also provided multiple sessions of staff and community education that empowered positive behaviour change.



Waste reduction and better management was addressed with new waste separation systems introduced at the Council run Lerwin Aged Care Facility. This included arranging tailored services, improving infrastructure and educating staff and residents, with ongoing support and feedback. The outcomes are dramatically reducing materials to landfill. Alongside this, Council is developing a local A-Z guide for waste and recycling information, which aims to support their local community to make the right choices. It highlights local initiatives like the high school's Precious Plastics program for bottle lid upcycling and local facilities like the Brinkley Reuse Centre.

Congratulations to the Rural City of Murray Bridge community for embracing such positive changes, being open to learning and trying new things and for supporting each other to create a more sustainable future.

If you'd like to learn more about these initiatives, you can contact them directly: s.packer@murraybridge.sa.gov.au & 0488770884.