



The Rural City of
**MURRAY
BRIDGE**

Bridge to Opportunity

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MEDIA RELEASE

Subject: IMAGINE results in a \$7.115 Million Win for Murray Bridge.

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Mayor of the Rural City of Murray Bridge Allan Arbon OAM today announced that Council will receive a grant of \$7.115 million through the Federal Governments National Urban Water and Desalination Plan: Stormwater Harvesting and Re-use Grant for its visionary project -Murray Bridge Stormwater Management and Reuse Scheme.

Mayor Arbon said the scheme, which will be discussed at the Council meeting to be held on 13 August 2012, is one of the key initiatives of Council to reduce reliance on the River Murray as our population increases, whilst keeping the regional centre green and economically strong.

Whilst the community have been committed to the delivery of a multitude of exciting small wins as a result of the "Imagine your Rural City 2020" program, Council, Regional Development Australia and private property developer Burke Urban have continued to focus their efforts on some Big Wins for the region.

One of these exciting initiatives has been the development of an integrated Stormwater Management and Re-use Scheme that encompasses the Gifford Hill residential development, Murray Bridge race course sites, and the Murray Bridge township. It has been made possible through the innovative decision of the Murray Bridge Racing Club to relocate to its new site at Gifford Hill thereby freeing up land to accommodate this storm-water solution.

"The Scheme will collect storm-water from flood mitigation basins within Murray Bridge and transfer it to a site at Gifford Hill for treatment and storage, with future distribution to various locations within Murray Bridge for reuse." Council CEO, Peter Bond said.

Photo Opportunity:

“Once operational a harvesting scheme will yield in the order of 830 ML per annum. It is intended that the initial stage will result in an available yield of approximately 660ML per annum” he said.

Mayor Arbon said there is strong community support for this project, which will also reduce the impact of flooding in and around Murray Bridge and improve water security by providing an alternative source of water for use in Murray Bridge.

This scheme will reduce dependency on mains and river water and will provide the opportunity to increase use of storm-water for irrigation, improving the aesthetic and recreational facilities within the township.

This is a big win for Murray Bridge and is evidence that an integrated regional vision, with strong community support and structure planning tools can result in some significant outcomes for the community.

“We remain focused on the revitalization of Murray Bridge and its rural communities and ultimately creating a better place to live for our residents and a desirable destination for all.” says Council CEO, Peter Bond.

On the 8 August, 2012 Senator Don Farrell, Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water, announced the successful applicants under the Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Projects third competitive grants round. The scheme supports the Federal Governments National Urban Water and Desalination Plan objectives by:

- producing a sustainable water resource from urban storm-water by substituting 375ML/a of irrigation water;
- using green energy to operate the scheme; and,
- integrating reuse facilities within the flood mitigation systems already in place without impacting on flood mitigation capacity.

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