



The Rural City of
MURRAY
BRIDGE



27 September 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

AWARD-WINNING STARCLUB PROGRAM BACKED TO 2021

An injection of \$360,000 has been secured to continue development of our region's vital sport and recreation clubs over the next three years.

This comes following re-signing of the award-winning *Murraylands Starclub Field Officer Program Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021* by five Murraylands Councils - in partnership with the State Government's Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing (ORSR).

Starclub focuses on growing and sustaining strong sport and recreation clubs, where quality coaches and officials work alongside valued volunteers in a safe and welcoming environment.

Recognising the incredible value of our region's clubs, the ORSR will contribute \$165,000 (\$55,000 each year) between now and June 2021, with the five Councils contributing the remaining \$195,000.

Funding will ensure the Murraylands has a full-time, on-the-ground field officer, who is devoted to working with our 180-plus local clubs to grow skills, sustainability, capacity and most importantly, participation.

It will also help ensure our region can continue to access key training and external funding opportunities, with the program contributing to a 500 per cent increase in the region's collective grant income towards sport and recreation over the last four years.

The Integrated Murraylands Physical Activity Committee (IMPAC) provides direction for the Starclub Program, and membership includes key leaders from each of the five funding councils (Rural City of Murray Bridge, Coorong District Council, Mid Murray Council, District Council of Karoonda East Murray and the Southern Mallee District Council).

IMPAC Chair Nat Traeger says the MOU signing and funding commitment was exceptional news for Murraylands sport and recreation communities, and once again demonstrated each of the Councils' commitment to community wellbeing.

"We know how important local clubs are to our communities," Ms Traeger says.

"Clubs are so much more than just a place to stay physically fit. They're about family and social connectedness – elements integral to the culture of vibrant rural communities.

"All of our Councils are invested in ensuring our clubs are sustained for future generations and their members and volunteers feel supported to continue being involved. We are fortunate to have a high performing, award winning STARclub program and we're here to stay."

- ENDS -

MEDIA CONTACT

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