



Renmark
Paringa
Council

Taylor Riverfront Precinct



What is the Taylor Riverfront Precinct?

In 2017, Renmark Paringa Council developed an Urban Design Framework (UDF) to ensure the planning of the Renmark Town Centre was up to date, reflective of community aspirations and well aligned to meet future needs.

A key theme in the UDF is to 'revive' Renmark and make it the place to relax, enjoy the Riverland lifestyle, bring life to the town centre and energise the local economy through a series of transformative projects.

The Taylor Riverfront Precinct which opened in March 2021 does just that, creating a new hub to meet, relax and enjoy the offerings of the River and town.

Where does the name come from?

The precinct is the original site of the Taylor Memorial Gardens and the Harry Clark Fountain. The Taylor Memorial Garden was established in 1937 and named after the past editor of "The Murray Pioneer", Mr Harry S Taylor who contributed to the town of Renmark from 1873 to 1932. Consultation with the Clark and Taylor family representatives took place in 2019 to ensure both families agreed with Council's decision to rename the site as the Taylor Riverfront Precinct and the fountain to remane as the Harry Clark Water Fountain. Council felt that the renaming, whilst retaining linkages to the original names, would identify better with the themes that Council is attempting to create out of the UDF.



What does Taylor Riverfront Precinct offer?

A well-designed precinct for people to come together, share food, play and enjoy the serenity of the mighty River Murray.

What does the Precinct offer?

The Precinct includes:

- A river deck which is 24 metres long and made from 100% recycled products. An equivalent of 65,530 milk bottles were recycled to create the river deck!
- A sheltered seating area at the end of the deck for locals and visitors to enjoy the spectacular view.
- Four BBQs, with shelters, that may be used for free.
- 16 park benches and a drinking fountain.
- A large 1700m² of open turf area with new trees and shrubs (in Winter 2021, the optimal planting season, over 1,000 rose bushes will be planted).
- Safety in design was maintained throughout the whole design process which also includes a 900mm high fence along the Ral Ral Avenue side of the park with self closing gates.



Harry Clark Fountain

The re-imagined and redesigned Harry Clark Fountain is sure to bring lots of memories for families

The original fountain was designed by Peter Everingham and constructed by the Corporation of Renmark with the assistance of a donation from local businessman Harry Clark in 1977. The number of stems on the existing fountain represents each of the major rivers comprising the Murray Darling River system. The decreasing height of the stems symbolises the passage of water from the source to the river's destination. The wine glass shape is a reminder of the grape and fruit produce of the area. The original fountain was iconic to Renmark's Riverfront and it was extremely important that the fountain's design elements remained. The new application of the fountain is safer, more reliable and is designed to be interactive for the young and young at heart.

The Harry Clark Fountain has a non slip surface which is especially important given that mostly children will be the primary users. The water for the water play area is now of swimming pool quality. Whilst the 'wine glass' stems themselves will not be available to climb on, there is plenty of room to play beneath the canopy. Whilst this is not a water park, it is a high quality open space in which Council aims to provide facilities that have been requested by the community through the Urban Design Framework public consultation process back in 2016. Through this process, the community emphatically expressed their view that "water play" and associated facilities would give people a reason to remain in the area for longer periods and be a great improvement in the space. Council is satisfied that this has been achieved in the Precinct.

Project Plan

In 2018/19 Council allocated \$3,884,000 to complete the Taylor Riverfront Precinct. This included:

- \$548,000 of external funding through the State Government Places for People Program, and
- \$1,394,000 of external funding through the Federal Government Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF).

Once funding had been secured, Council engaged the services of LCS Landscapes (in line with Council's procurement policy) to manage and construct the project. The project utilised the services of 18 local sub-contractors, which therefore invested at least \$898,000 directly into our local economy.

From Urban Design Framework to now

Taylor Riverfront Precinct was generated from the community's desire to activate and revive the town centre. The UDF was developed using community consultation.



Where design and beauty meet

The design for Taylor Riverfront Precinct was carried out by Jensen Plus who were awarded the contract in line with Council's procurement policy.

Jensen Plus also developed Renmark Paringa Council's Urban Design Framework which was carried out with extensive community consultation in 2016. With this in mind Jensen Plus had extensive knowledge of not only the township but also the community. The careful consideration that went into planning the Precinct is reflective of the desires and wishes of the community.

The Precinct is set in the heart of Renmark and enjoys views of the River Murray on one side and access to the town on the other side. The Matulick Riverfront walk runs through the Precinct and provides an opportunity for people to enjoy the recreational benefits of the riverfront without having to be on the water.

Taylor Riverfront Precinct design combines community desires whilst utilising the magnificent natural landscape of the region. Once the 1,000 rose bushes are planted in Winter 2021, the Precinct will come alive in time for the annual Renmark Riverland Rose Festival. It is expected that the official opening of Taylor Riverfront Precinct will occur at around this time.

The contribution to the local economy from this project was at least \$898,000

What's next for Taylor Riverfront Precinct?

...sit back and enjoy!



Over 1,000 rose plants planted at the Taylor Riverfront Precinct

Stop and smell the Roses

A considerable component of the Taylor Riverfront Precinct is the landscaping, with extensive vegetation forming part of the design. This is not only aesthetically pleasing but also a safety feature to ensure that people are kept safe from potential hazards. You may notice that the Lion, who was a gift from Renmark Paringa Council's sister city Shi Shi City in China, is looking slightly bare at the moment. A second stage in the development of the Precinct, saw the planting of the 1,000 rose plants. This took place in Winter 2021 when optimum planting conditions for roses in the Riverland occur. Our favourite Lion will be surrounded by blooming roses in no time and the Precinct will be glorious in time for the Renmark Riverland Rose Festival.

Accessibility

Safety and usability of the Precinct has been at the forefront of Council's planning, however accessibility from the Precinct to the town centre public toilets has been identified as an area for consideration. Council is currently investigating improvements to pedestrian access to the town centre to ensure that there is good accessibility and walkability throughout the town. It is worth noting that the intersection adjacent to the Precinct is a Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure road (not under the control of Council).

Another major project of Council is the upgrade of Government Road, which will assist in redirecting heavy vehicles away from the town centre. Council has commenced this project with 2 out of the 4 stages already completed.

What else?

- 180 Murray Avenue (formally known as the Westpac Building), next door to the Taylor Riverfront Precinct, has recently been the subject of community consultation. Council will soon test the market in order to determine a potential future use for the site. The results of the community consultation have been particularly useful as it has enabled the community's desires to be reflected in the expression of interest documentation.
- Future stages of the UDF will be further explored along with potential co-funding opportunities. If you would like to access Renmark Paringa Council's Urban Design Framework please [click here](#).

