

NEWS

Advantages change over region

By **Chanelle Leslie**

WHEN it comes to socio-economic advantage in the region, it seems one kilometre makes all the difference.

Cross the river from Murray Bridge to Murray Bridge East, and the index of relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage jumps 39 percentage points in the South Australian ranking of census data from 2011.

Measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the index compares factors including employment, incomes, education and mortgage repayments, weighing up disadvantage against advantage for a ranking score.

In this census, Yumali was the dark horse of the Murraylands, ranking in the 68th percentile in the state.

The 391 Yumali residents appear to enjoy a better life than in Murray Bridge and Tailem Bend, which both placed in the bottom 7 per cent.

Swanport, Coonalpyn and Riverglades closely followed Yumali

in enjoying socio-economic advantages above the State's median.

Yumali resident Bob Lloyd said the lack of unemployment in comparison to some of the larger suburbs set his area apart.

"I've been here for 52 years, so it must be alright," he said.

"You haven't got the hassles of town living.

"I wouldn't go to Murray Bridge to live."

Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick, who lives in Coomandook, said he enjoyed life in an outlying town.

However he defended Murray Bridge, saying its low figure probably did not reflect the lifestyle accurately.

"If you compared Murray Bridge to areas further upstream I think Murray Bridge has done well and it's going to go places," Mr Pederick said.

"It's all about people's perceptions of where they live.

"If people are happy with their lifestyle, it doesn't matter how much money they have got in their pocket."