

NEWS

Advisory group awash with support

RIVER users who want to enjoy and sustain the Murray can look to a new organisation for guidance and a new website for information.

The River Murray Boating and Recreational Advisory Group (RMBRAG) finalised its 11-member committee last month.

The committee's membership includes Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick and representatives of the South Australian Natural Resource Management Board, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, boat retailers, marina operators and shack owners.

The group has also partnered with the River Murray Urban Users Committee, which has experience in sustainability and gaining government funding.

Chairman David Banks said RMBRAG would begin consulting the community about sustainable recreational behaviour on the river within three months.

"Fair and transparent community consultation and engagement is the absolute key to this project and I believe we have the right mix on the

committee to achieve this," he said.

"With the knowledge and experience around the table, RMBRAG is well positioned to make informative decisions.

"So far communication has been positive; however, I cannot reiterate enough that community involvement is fundamental to RMBRAG achieving its goals."

With that in mind, last week the group launched a website with lists of its aims and strategies and links to suggested boating practices.

Media officer Georgina Sutton said the site would be a useful tool for communicating with river users.

"The website will provide a forum and opportunity for river users to voice their views and be part of seeking solutions to the matters identified and ensure a fair and equitable community consultation process," she said.

The group also has a Facebook page with almost 3000 subscribers.

- Details: River users can access the website at www.rmbrag.com or attend the next committee meeting at the Murray Bridge Natural Resources Centre at 3pm on Friday, October 18.