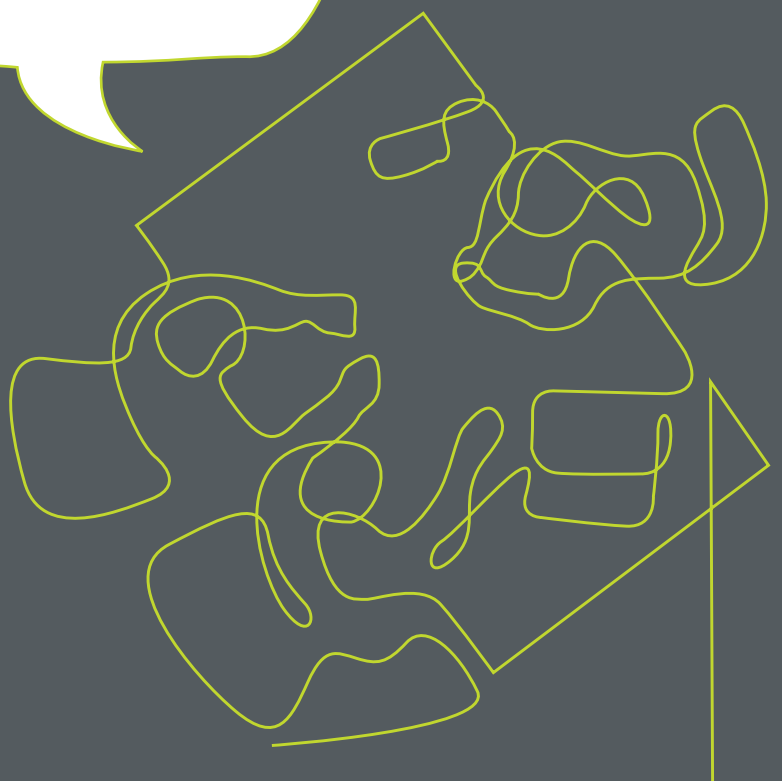


Strong and Adaptable - Conversation Host Guide and Feedback Form

This guide is to assist people wanting to host a Community Conversation to assist in the development of a regional plan for the Murraylands, Mallee and Riverland.

This is a companion document for the Strong and Adaptable - a Community Conversation Guide for the Murraylands, Mallee and Riverland.

We hope this Guide helps to make your conversation simple and enjoyable.



The Process



Background

Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland (RDAMR), the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board (MRLB) and the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA) are working together to develop the Murraylands and Riverland Plan (MR Plan) for ensuring that our community is as prepared as we can be for any challenges we might face into the future.

Whether it is pandemics, drought, bushfires, or changes to our workforce, we want to look at what needs to be done to be better prepared – socially, economically, environmentally and emotionally – to manage these events.

We want to be better prepared to ensure that as a community we are not just surviving but flourishing, and that we continue to be strong and adaptable.

It is intended that this community driven activity will develop an enduring process, much more than yet another plan. Our organisations exist to bring benefit to the broader community.

The MR Plan and its enduring process will build on these existing networks and improve how we work together – across the entire region.

This will aid our ability to both plan for and respond to adversity, with strength and agility into the future.

It will also improve the region's likelihood of being prioritised for federal drought funding (and other financial support through current and future federal and state funding initiatives).

Why Community Conversations?

We've chosen to use a Community Conversations approach to form the foundation for the MR Plan. We know that workshops and meetings only work for some people, and we want these conversations to work for everyone.

We want everyone involved in a way that works for you!

A community conversation is made up of a small group of people who get together to talk. The setting is of your choice – it can be informal or part of a formal meeting.

They are designed to happen organically, and to make use of the existing networks and groups that exist in our communities.

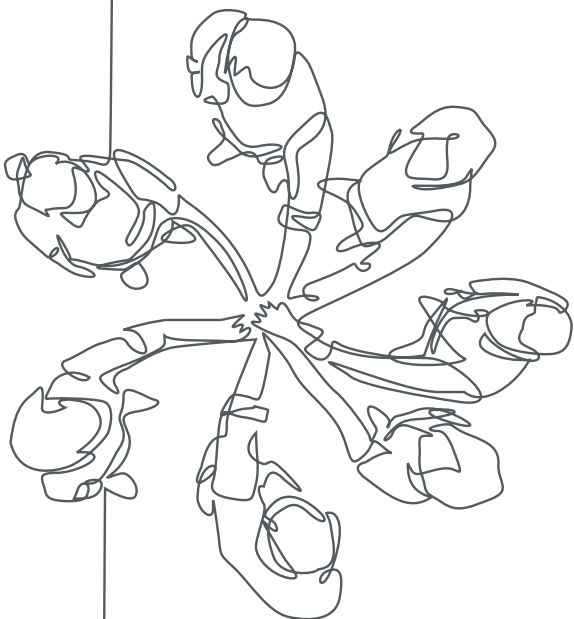
Your role as host

As the host you have a very important role.

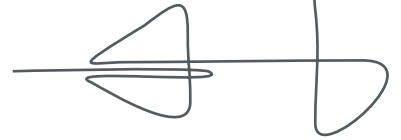
It's your job to read and fully understand the [Conversation Guide](#) so you can support others in their discussions and help to answer questions.

As host, it's also your job to make sure all the responses and different views of the group are recorded and submitted. You can record them directly onto this Feedback Form and either mail them, deliver them, submit them online later, or submit them online as you go.

Find the online Feedback Form [HERE](#) or scan the QR code>>



Step by Step



STEP 1

Decide who to invite and agree on a place and time (refer section below on Who Should Come?).

STEP 2

Email attendees a link to the Conversation Guide.

STEP 3

Begin the conversation by explaining the background information and process ensuring that everyone understands and is comfortable with the task at hand.

STEP 4

Work through the sections in the Conversation Guide and start a discussion using the discussion points. Keep track of responses as you go (either directly into the online feedback form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/StrongAdaptRM, or on a printed version of this Host Guide and Feedback Form)

STEP 5

Lodge responses - submit the online [Feedback Form](#) or send your completed hardcopy Feedback Form to PO BOX 134, Murray Bridge, SA 5253.

You are also welcome to drop off your copy to RDAMR at 6 Kay Ave, Berri or 137 Adelaide Rd, Murray Bridge.

Who should come?

We want a diversity of the community to be involved in the Community Conversations. Participants don't need to be experts on anything – they simply have to live / work or visit the region, and ideally will care about your community's future.

Communities can be any group of people that either live in the same place or have a particular characteristic (or interest) in common. So communities can be groups of people who have an interest in business or particular industry areas. They could also be groups that have an interest in the arts or in supporting society. And of course communities can be locational - residents of a particular area.



Tips for hosting a Community Conversation

1. Choose a time and comfortable location where there will be minimal disruptions – it could be at home, work, in a community space, or even online.
 - Expect the discussion to take 1.5 hours, depending on the size of your group.
2. Develop an invitation list (up to 6 people is ideal - and we suggest no more than 15 in one sitting) and share a direct link to the Community Conversation Guide so participants can read the Strong and Adaptable - a Community Conversation Guide for the Murraylands, Mallee and Riverland. (If they can't read the Guide before the meeting, no problems... as the host you can always refer them to bits of the Guide during the conversation).
3. No doubt you will have lots of ideas in response to some questions - but we limit the number you can provide - so work with your group to prioritise. What is most important?
4. Enjoy the conversation!

We need to receive responses from your group by March 2022.

Discussion Points

Discussion Point

Instructions / Feedback format

1 Does the diagram on page 8 of the Community Conversation Guide identify the key elements that the region needs to be strong and adaptable? Is something missing?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

If No, what's missing?

2 What are the most important things we need to put in place to ensure that our **industries and landscapes** are as resilient as they can be to manage disruptions and challenges (such as drought)?
(Identify up to 5 things)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

3 What does your **community** have as a strength or an asset that helps it to be strong and adaptable?
(Identify 1 from the following list ie what is the strongest aspect of your community)

☐ Provide places and opportunities for community connection

☐ We have a connection to place

☐ We have a vision or a plan

☐ We invest in infrastructure and services that build communities

☐ We have trusted leadership and governance

☐ If you have identified something other than the above that is a greater strength for your community please provide here in just a few words

4 What government programs / initiatives (if any) have helped your **community** to become strong and adaptable?
(Detail the programs / initiatives and why it helped)

Name of program / initiative:

1. Why it helped?

Name of program / initiative:

2. Why it helped?

Name of program / initiative:

3. Why it helped?

Discussion Point

Instructions / Feedback format

5

Which of these components of resilience are gaps (or areas of weakness) for your **community**?

- ☐ Provide places and opportunities for community connection
- ☐ We have a connection to place
- ☐ We have a vision or a plan
- ☐ We invest in infrastructure and services that build communities
- ☐ We have trusted leadership and governance
- ☐ If you have identified something other than the above that is a significant weakness for your community please provide here in just a few words:

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Reflecting on your answer to Question 5, what is the root cause of the gap(s)?

7

Reflecting on your answer to Question 5, what can your **community** do (yourselves) to address the gap(s)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

8

Reflecting on your answer to Question 5, what can **governments** (local, state or federal) do to support your community to address the gap(s)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

9

Reflecting on your answer to Question 5, what **don't** you want governments to do to address the gap(s)?

10

What is the most important thing that our **community** needs to better support it to be resilient?

Who are the people of the Murraylands, Mallee and Riverland region?

We are the many and diverse communities of the Murraylands, Mallee and Riverland region, from Jervois to Renmark, and Pinnaroo to Truro. Our landscape is defined by the iconic Murray River and our vast open space, featuring undulating hills and expansive mallee. We love the openness, the freedom, the fresh air. We love the way the sunset turns our pastures golden, the Mallee, the smell of the dirt during seeding and, most of all, our lifeblood - the Murray River - its beauty, its wetlands and cliffs and the vital water source it provides.

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When thinking about the "Who are the people of the Murraylands, Mallee and Riverland" section on page 4 of the Community Conversation Guide and noted above, does this provide an accurate description of us as a region?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

If No, tell us what would improve it?

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A bit about who was part of your community conversations

Host name:

Host email:

Host phone:

Where is your community located (town or postcode)?

How many people participated in your conversation?

Type of group (e.g. church, industry group, school, service group such as Rotary or CWA, sporting group, government workplace, non-government organisation workplace, community organisation, friendship group, family, other...)

How long did it take you to complete the conversation?

☐ Less than 1hr ☐ 1-1.5hrs ☐ 1.5-2hrs ☐ 2-3hrs ☐ more

How much did you enjoy the conversation? (Circle amount) ★★★★★

We are interested to know how people have become aware of this Conversation Guide. How did you learn about the opportunity to host a conversation?

☐ I participated in another conversation hosted by someone else

Hosted by who? _____

☐ I read about it / heard about it in the media

Where? _____

☐ A friend / colleague passed it on

☐ I was interviewed for the development of this Guide

☐ Something else: _____

We would love to keep you involved in the process - would you and your group like to stay in touch with the project? If yes, please list names and emails below

Who's voice should be heard? Would you like to nominate a regional person to attend the Summit – someone who's voice you think should be deeply involved in discussing the future of the region.

Strong and Adaptable - a Community Conversation Guide for the Murraylands, Mallee and Riverland



This project is part of the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program and is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Government of South Australia.