



The Rural City of  
**MURRAY  
BRIDGE**

Bridge to Opportunity

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## MEDIA RELEASE

**Subject: Silo Art for Murray Bridge- Artists Announced**

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Internationally celebrated Australian contemporary street artist Smug (Sam Bates) has been announced as the Murray Bridge silo artist. The Viterra silos are located on Railway Terrace, Murray Bridge.

Famed for creating large-scale photo-realistic murals, Sam Bates was born in a small town south of Sydney and is now based in Glasgow, Scotland. In addition to numerous commissions around the world, he has previously completed two silo artworks in Australia, in Nullawil, Victoria and in Wirrabara, South Australia.

The project is supported by the award-winning street art network Juddy Roller, a company with artists who specialise in painting silos and large buildings. Smug hopes to complete a number of commissions while visiting his home country in 2022 and plans to use a suitably qualified local artist as an assistant during his time on the Murray Bridge project.

The Rural City of Murray Bridge was recently awarded a Federal grant of \$88,500 from the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) program to underpin the \$146,000 project.

Council reached out to the community late last year to seek input on potential themes for the artwork through a community survey and schools drawing competition supported by Bunnings Murray Bridge. Respondents were asked: 'what makes Murray Bridge unique' and 'what do you think would make a good silo artwork'. There were 188 responses to the survey and 58 entries to the schools drawing competition.

Smug will consider the ideas collected to develop a proposal for the artwork. For those wishing to contribute further to the discussion, an online Community Forum with Smug is scheduled for 6:00pm on Monday 21 February. Registration is available through the council website, or contact Public Art Officer Tegan Hale on 8539 1100. Due to covid-19 restrictions, limited numbers can be accommodated in person, if you are unable to join online.

The final design will be selected by Council and announced to the public ahead of Smug commencing the project in April.

General Manager Community Development Kristen Manson said: "We envisage the silo artwork will be a popular tourist attraction.

The location is within walking distance of the Murray Bridge CBD and will create a spectacular focal point on the town's horizon, boost local tourism and connect us to

Australia's largest outdoor gallery known as 'The Silo Art Trail'. We'd like to encourage visitors to drop into other local arts and cultural venues in the area."

Business or individuals wishing to contribute to the project with a donation or in-kind support are encouraged to speak to the project contact.

For more information on the Silo Mural Art project contact Public Art Officer Tegan Hale via [t.hale@murraybridge.sa.gov.au](mailto:t.hale@murraybridge.sa.gov.au) or 8539 1100