## MEDIA RELEASE



Subject:	Santos Tour Down Under Returns to Murray Bridge in 2024
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THE RURAL City of Murray Bridge is thrilled to announce that the Santos Tour Down Under, Australia's premier cycling event, will be returning to our vibrant city in January 2024. As a chosen host for this prestigious race, Murray Bridge is set to welcome the world's finest UCI World Tour professional cycling teams to our streets for the start of Hahn's Men's Stage Four on Friday 19 January 2024.

Santos Tour Down Under is the largest cycling race in the southern hemisphere and Council is honoured to host and have the opportunity to show off our region.

Murray Bridge will host the start of Stage 4 of the Men's race on Friday 19 January, with the riders making a loop across the mighty Murray under neutral conditions, before making the long trip to Port Elliot via Woods Point, Jervois, and Wellington.

Stuart O'Grady OAM the Tour Down Under Race Director and the very first Santos Tour Down Under Winner (1999) visited Murray Bridge last week to check out all that Murray Bridge has to offer.

Mayor Wayne Thorley expressed his excitement at the news stating, "We eagerly look forward to welcoming the riders, spectators and cycling enthusiasts to Murray Bridge. Our hopes for this stage are to create an unforgettable experience, highlighting the stunning Murray River and an opportunity to showcase our beautiful region to a global audience.

The stage start of the Tour Down Under in Murray Bridge presents a fantastic occasion to boost tourism and display the unique offerings of our region. We anticipate that this remarkable event will attract visitors from far and wide, stimulating our local economy and providing invaluable support to our local businesses."

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in <u>RuralCityOfMurrayBridge</u> Page 1 of 2 Mayor Thorley further highlighted that hosting this exhilarating race provides an opportunity for Murray Bridge to demonstrate the progress made in our flood recovery efforts,

"We are proud to showcase our resilience and invite visitors to witness the rejuvenated Murray River, with its renewed beauty and a plethora of recreational opportunities."

For more information and updates regarding the Santos Tour Down Under in Murray Bridge, please visit the <u>Council website.</u>

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