

# Moving forward

Waikerie is continuing to move forward with the fourth community forum, Waikerie – Our Future, held on Monday night.

Chairman of the Waikerie District Development Committee (WDDC), Alan Hillier, said the meetings have engaged the community in forward planning.

“I think this is a great positive and it’s certainly given the WDDC something to progress it to the next step, which is formal discussion with the District Council of Loxton Waikerie on the outcomes of these meetings.

“The meeting also highlighted some short term projects that the entire community can work on including the ‘Waikerie...Says G’Day’ campaign and highlighting the importance of the

business awards run by the Riverland West Chamber of Commerce (RWCC),” he said.

“We need to keep the momentum up with this and the next meeting is planned for the first week of February, 2009. However, in the meantime we will be continuing the ‘Waikerie... Says G’day’ promotion and we encourage more community members to get involved with that,” Mr. Hillier said.

“These Waikerie–Our Future meetings have also generated interest within the press and also with potential investors into Waikerie and I think that if the current businesses in Waikerie can assist with the establishment of new businesses that would improve the opportunities for the town.

“It has given people a forum to put their views across and it’s pleasing to see that it’s not only



Mark and Connie Woodberry of Regional Breakthroughs at the ‘Waikerie - Our Future’ forum on Monday night.

at those meetings that these types of healthy discussions occur – there is some genuine interest and passion for this town and project.

“Through these meetings, businesses in the area have gained more of an understanding of each other’s objectives and are working together to achieve a common goal and help Waikerie progress,” he said.

Connie Woodberry, Executive Officer of Regional Breakthroughs, said at the meeting on Monday night that “the people attending these meetings have more than embraced the opportunity to change Waikerie for the better”.

“There is no option here in the Riverland to not change,” she said. “It is inevitable so we need to embrace it.”

“Regional reinvention

requires flexibility and willingness to change, and Waikerie is more than capable of that.”

The next community Waikerie – Our Future meeting has been planned for February 2, 2009, and the WDDC, RWCC and Connie and Mark Woodberry of Regional Breakthroughs invite all community members interested to come along and share their views.