



Ian Penno (pictured with Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald at Lake Bonney) is the driving force behind next week's community meeting in Barmera.

The trail forward for Barmera

By DANIELLE SCHULZ

A proposed tourist trail linking Barmera and surrounding towns is one of the key items to be discussed at a community meeting on Monday night.

Hundreds of people are expected to gather at the Barmera Hellenic Hall to discuss and suggest ideas to move the Lake Bonney district forward.

Spokesperson Ian Penno said it was time for the community to "take ownership, control and responsibility to ensure its future".

A landscape architect

has already been commissioned to come up with ideas to link Barmera, Cobdogla, Loveday, Overland Corner and Kingston-On-Murray.

"It could be a road," Mr Penno said, "or it could be things for people to stop at and do on the way to somewhere."

The group plans to emphasise the uniqueness of the district and re-centre the focus of the Barmera tourism industry away from Lake Bonney by promoting sporting activities and the country lifestyle.

"The town has to realise what is under their nose - there is so much other stuff around," Mr Penno said.

Mr Penno said he wanted to improve the district, but not change it.

The core group, which has met fortnightly for several months, has drawn up an ambitious agenda to put the local district on the map.

Mr Penno said the meeting would be a stepping-stone for the community to address topics ranging from health and education to environmental and indigenous issues.

Mr Penno said the group had chosen to operate outside the umbrella of local government because it was important community members took owner-

ship of what happened in their towns.

"At the moment everyone relies on council or government to do it and they are not always happy with the way things turn out..." he said.

"(The group) has only laid the foundation for what can happen."

The meeting will begin at 7pm on Monday.

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