



## Case Study 54

### Loxton High School

Loxton SA

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**Client:** SA Department of Administrative and Information Services

**Paving contractor:** Barry Davis

## Loxton High School, **Loxton SA**

Loxton is a town of over 7000 people situated on the southern bank of the Murray River, about 255 km east of Adelaide, in the heart of South Australia's bountiful Riverland.

The high school has undergone a multi-million dollar redevelopment program in recent years. Completing the project is a park-like landscape with meandering, tree-lined paths.

The building redevelopment began three years ago with builders working around the existing buildings that were subsequently removed or demolished. The last building phase included science labs, art

rooms, an admin area, library and staff room.

The school first selected the paver for this project over six years ago. Almost 90,000 clay pavers have been laid in the intervening period, creating a pleasant network of paths, seating areas and places for quiet study. The buildings are perimeter paved, with the paving linking and unifying the campus.

Loxton High's principal, Kent Spangenberg, asserts that building and landscape aesthetics can affect student and staff performance. "I honestly think that pleasant surrounds significantly impact on a



Loxton High School's paving sweeps through the park-like landscape, creating quiet areas for study, recreation and socialising.

Photography by Italo Vardaro





“Pleasant surrounds significantly impact on a person’s mental wellbeing”

person’s mental wellbeing and hence their performance. The paving has been totally integral to not only the aesthetics, but it has also enhanced the landscaping and recreational aspects of the school. It’s truly outstanding.”

The school community played a part in the landscaping. “We just didn’t have the funds to landscape,” explains architect George Hum who says the principal was instrumental in gathering local support. “We were so glad Kent was able to do that.”

The conclusion of the redevelopment is timely as Loxton High School’s enrolment is set to rise more than 10 percent in 2006, partly fueled by the region’s changing demographics.



Loxton High School has laid over 90,000 clay pavers in the past six years, all on a flexible base with narrow, sand-filled gaps. The paving sits well with the young plantings, and complements the bricks selected for the new buildings. All buildings are perimeter paved, linked by meandering paths.