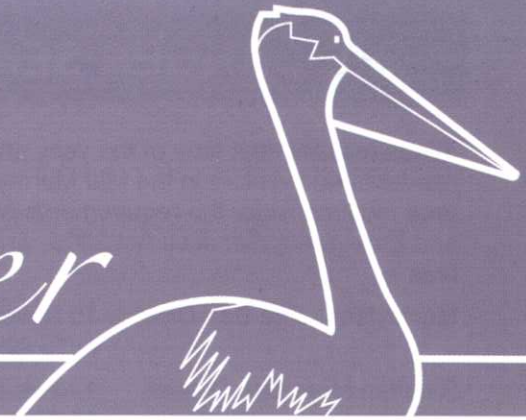


NOVEMBER 2008

Mid Murray Council

Newsletter

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a message from the Mayor

Within the next couple of weeks, Council will be publishing two new important documents and the community will be asked to comment on their content.

The first document is Council's Draft Long Term Financial Management Plan which outlines the fiscal forecasts for the next 10 years. The Plan links to Council's Strategic Plan's objectives and Annual Business Plan. It aims at achieving a break-even operating result within a five year period. The Plan projects Council's rating requirements and predicts revenue from grants, fees, fines and service charges.

Council has included in this Plan, its target range for net liabilities taking into account levels of capital expenditure (both renewal and replacement of existing assets) and this Plan consequently links into Council's Asset Management Plan.

Council's Draft Asset Management Plan is the second document to be published for community assessment and comment. The Plan provides Council with mechanisms to meet objectives for asset management in relation to service levels, financial implications and legal and regulatory matters. The Council's largest and most valuable asset is its roads infrastructure. The Mid Murray Council is responsible for more than 3,000 kilometres of roads, of which approximately 300 kilometres are sealed.

Both these Plans are of significance to the administration of Council and vital instruments for the community to appreciate for the long term sustainability of the district.

The draft documents will be made available from Council offices and through Council's website from the middle of November. Information regarding their availability will be promoted through the local media.

Comments will be received in writing (emails accepted) by Thursday 4 December 2008.

IAN MANN OAM
MAYOR



AUSTRALIA DAY NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year Awards are now being received at the Mannum office, 49 Adelaide Road, Mannum. Nomination forms are available at each of the Council offices and on Council's website.

The Awards are provided by the Australia Day Council of South Australia Inc and are administered by Local Government Authorities throughout South Australia on behalf of the Council.

Persons who have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the local community over a number of years shall be eligible.

Nominations close on 27 November, 2008.

FAMILY FRIENDLY NEW YEAR'S EVE FOR MORGAN

Council has taken steps to create an alcohol free family friendly New Year's Eve for Morgan in 2008.

In this regard, Council has applied to the Office of the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner for a Dry Zone to prevent the possession and consumption of alcohol on the Morgan Riverfront lawns area:

- from 8-00 pm 29 December 2008 to 8-00 am 30 December 2008 and
- from 8-00 pm 30 December 2008 to 8-00 am 31 December 2008 and
- from 4-00 pm 31 December 2008 to 9-00 am 1 January 2009 and
- from 8-00 pm 1 January 2009 to 8-00 am 2 January 2009.

The Dry Zone which applies to the Riverfront Reserve, Lookout, Railway Museum area and Wharf area will be enforced by Police Officers. There will be no licensed street party and no outside music this New Year's Eve in Morgan.

FIRE DANGER SEASON

It has reached that time of the year where residents and visitors in the Mid Murray Council area must consider the requirements of the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005, when lighting fires.

Murraylands Fire Ban District: 15 November 2008 to 15 April 2009

Riverland Fire Ban District: 1 November 2008 to 15 April 2009

Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Ban District: 15 November 2008 to 30 April 2009

It will be necessary to obtain a permit for any fires in the open during the Fire Danger Season. Permits will not be issued for burning off before 1 February 2009.

Recent changes to the Fire and Emergency Services Act have empowered Police Officers and Council Fire Prevention Officers to issue 'on the spot' fines for certain breaches of the Act.

Further information regarding comfort fires and the lighting of barbecues is available from Rocky Warren, Council's Fire Prevention Officer. Rocky can be contacted on 8564 6020 or 0409 554 807.

Further information can be obtained from the CFS Hotline on 1300 362 361.

MOTORBIKES ON ROAD RESERVES

Council having received many complaints and being aware of the damage/nuisance caused by motor bike riding on road verges/reserves has implemented a signage programme throughout the district. Council's Compliance staff are policing illegal bike riding and are taking appropriate action. An on the spot fine of \$180 applies for illegal bike riding on roadsides/reserves.



SA WATER RESTRICTIONS HOTLINE 1800 130 952

MANNUM SUPERMARKET

Council is currently processing the development application lodged for the proposed supermarket development at Mannum, and at present are in discussions with the developers in regard to various components of the project.

It is anticipated the application assessment process will be completed prior to the end of this year. A positive outcome of the application process will allow the developers to proceed in accordance with their construction time frames.

WATER RESTRICTIONS - HOLIDAY HOME OWNERS

Most of these owners have a water licence to pump directly from the river which is not metered; however they are under the same restrictions as householders on mains water. The use of sprinklers is not allowed. SA Water are in the process of monitoring all sites along the river and where it is obvious the restrictions are not being observed, they have taken appropriate action.

SLASHING OF PROPERTIES

Council reminds property owners of their requirements in keeping their blocks clear and highlight the dangers associated with the Fire Danger Season. As a part of this process Council commenced inspections of township properties in October and will issue orders for property owners to clear their blocks of all long grasses and flammable items.

Section 83 of the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005, requires all property owners within the area of a Council to take reasonable steps to protect property on their land from fire and to prevent or inhibit the outbreak of fire on their land, or spread of fire through the land.

Part of this legislation also requires a country Council to inspect properties within its area and issue orders to landholders requiring them to conduct work clearing their land of fire hazards.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The offices of Council will close at 4-00 pm on Wednesday 24 December 2008 and re-open at 9-00 am on Monday 5 January 2009.

