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MEDIA RELEASE

MOORING REMINDER TO HOUSEBOAT USERS

Houseboat owners are being urged to be mindful when mooring their vessels on Crown Land.

The Mid Murray Council is working with peak State bodies to address concerns over some instances of long-term mooring on Crown Land at Mannum, Walker Flat, Blanchetown and Morgan, which has been causing issues for nearby residents.

Mid Murray Council Mayor Dave Burgess said the Council recognised the houseboating industry was an important tourism attraction and economic contributor to the district, however, there was a careful balance to ensure local residents were not negatively impacted.

“Houseboating showcases our beautiful Murray River environment to many visitors throughout the year and is a vital tourism industry along the length of the whole river,” Mayor Burgess says.

“With peak season now underway, it’s timely for houseboat owners to remember their responsibilities when it comes to mooring and to ensure they don’t overstay at sites, especially those on Crown Land.

“This can cause problems for others in the area who can be affected by noise, waste management, effluent and anti-social behaviour.

“We want everyone, especially visitors to our region, to have the chance to experience the magic of holidaying on the Murray, so we need to ensure we are sharing mooring sites with other river users.”

Temporary stays are permitted on Crown Land, but the permanent mooring of houseboats is not. Houseboat owners also need to remember that some parts of the river are held in freehold to the water’s edge and mooring adjacent to such land is not permitted without the land owner’s consent.

Mooring on Council-owned land is managed under the Council’s own by-law, which states that houseboat owners must comply with site-specific time limits.

Mid Murray Council Director of Development and Environment Jake McVicar said managing long-term mooring issues on Crown Land was more complicated, but the Council and State authorities were committed to working together to manage the problem, and ensure residents were happy and the tourism industry could continue to thrive.

“We meet regularly with State authorities to resolve these issues and remain committed to ensuring river users are sharing one of our greatest natural assets respectfully and fairly so that everyone can enjoy their houseboat stay.”

For more information on the rules around houseboat moorings and Crown Land, visit:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/land-management/crown-lands/faq#CanI moormy houseboat on Crownland>.

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