

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **COMMUNITY TO HAVE SAY ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO MID MURRAY TRANSFER STATION OPERATIONS**

Mid Murray residents are being asked to have their say on a plan to update the operations of local transfer stations.

The Mid Murray Council runs 10 transfer stations across the district – far more than any other comparable SA rural council – but the amount of waste received at the stations each year has reduced significantly over the past two years as other waste services have been enhanced.

To ensure the district's waste services remain efficient and sustainable, the Council is proposing to reduce the operations of its transfer stations, with five to transition to seasonal operations only, with the remaining five to open on a rotational basis with opening hours based on demand.

The preferred option was endorsed by Council this month for community consultation and follows an extensive review of Council's hard waste disposal services and transfer station operations earlier this year.

Council considered seven options – ranging from closing some of the smaller and less-frequently used transfer stations through to reducing some stations to opening once a month only, or only on weekends.

**Council's preferred option is to split the transfer station operations into northern and southern sectors, which would open on alternate weekends, with the exception of transfer stations at Morgan and Mannum which would open once midweek with accessible operating hours, and on weekends.**

**Transfer stations at Cadell, Tungkillo, Swan Reach, Cambrai and Bowhill would transition to seasonal operation, opening six times per year to accommodate free green waste and free hard waste disposal voucher opportunities.**

Prior to considering the options, Council also benchmarked its transfer station services alongside those of other regional South Australian Councils – with Mid Murray found to offer considerably more transfer station services to its residents.

Mid Murray Council Chief Executive Officer Ben Scales said the proposed changes aimed to maintain appropriate service levels for residents who use the transfer stations, while also ensuring the stations were operating as efficiently and cost effectively as possible.

"With the increased use in recent years of Council's kerbside general waste collection service, the volume of waste taken to our transfer stations has reduced significantly," Mr Scales says.

"Council's preferred option aims to reduce costs and inefficiencies, while also streamlining the services offered at our transfer stations. We recognise that distance can be an issue for residents in

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accessing services such as waste disposal, and we've reflected this in the option to retain all stations, but reducing operational hours at sites where attendance is low.

"In response to community feedback, Council has also reinstated its Free Hard Waste Disposal Voucher system and will continue to provide Free Green Waste Disposal Days in conjunction with its transfer station operations. Recyclable materials will still remain free to dispose of at transfer stations as well, to encourage recycling and reuse."

Community feedback during Council's recent Hard Waste Service and Transfer Station Operation Survey earlier this year indicated support for a transition to sustainable transfer station operations, including a review of operating hours.

### **Mid Murray Council Transfer Stations – Proposed new operation hours for consultation**

*Operating hours occur on a fortnightly rotational basis with Mannum and Morgan opening more regularly.*

#### **Week 1 – Northern Area including Mannum – Transfer station operating hours**

Site	Days	Operating Hours **	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
Mannum - Sat	2	7.30-11am			2			3.5	
Blanchetown	1	1-2.30pm						1.5	
Truro	1	8.30-10am							1.5
Morgan	2	11am-12.30pm			2				1.5
Cadell*	1	1.30-2.30pm							1

#### **Week 2 – Southern Area including Swan Reach – Transfer station operating hours**

Site	Days	Operating Hours **	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
Tungkillo*	1	8-9am						1	
Swan Reach*	1	10-11.30am						1.5	
Cambrai*	1	12.30-1.30pm						1	
Mannum - Sun	2	7.30-11am			2				3.5
Walker Flat	1	12-1.30pm							1.5
Bowhill*	1	2-3pm							1

*\* Denotes seasonal operation only, opening six times per year to accommodate free green waste and free hard waste disposal voucher opportunities.*

*\*\* Operating hours denotes proposed weekend hours only. Weekday operating hours are yet to be confirmed.*

Community feedback is now invited on the proposal, with an online survey available.

**Consultation opens on Tuesday, 19 July 2022 and closes on 12 August 2022.** For more information, or to have your say visit [www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au](http://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au).

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