

Mid Murray Council Newsletter

November 2022



Photo by Kathy Kain

A Message from the CEO

As we head into the warmer months and Mid Murray's peak tourism season, there is much to look forward to with the progression of a number of exciting projects for our District.

With many visitors and locals preparing to enjoy all of the activities our river lifestyle offers, Council is continuing to monitor high flows in the River Murray in conjunction with relevant Government agencies. Thank you to the Mid Murray community for your patience and vigilance over recent months with minor inundation and flooding, which required the closure of some of our facilities including the Swan Reach Deep Mooring site, local pontoons and some sections of road. With the holiday season now approaching, we encourage everyone to be safe and consider the risks associated with the current high river levels before enjoying our beautiful sections of the river.

The higher river levels have delayed some plans for riverbank improvements in Len White Reserve at Swan Reach, but I'm pleased to report that work is underway on the construction of a new playground. Plans for the upgraded play space were developed in consultation with the Swan Reach community and will enhance the reserve for families and visitors. Planning is also progressing for the Blanchetown Oval upgrade, with Council liaising with local school students on a new playground concept design.

Infrastructure works continue to be a priority for Council, including work on the \$3.1m sealing of a section of Murraylands Road, construction of a 20km section of the Murray Coorong Trail from Nildottie to Swan Reach and the roll out of our annual road resealing and resheeting program across the Region.

In a significant milestone, Mid Murray Council's first Reconciliation Action Plan has been approved by Reconciliation Australia, and we look forward to beginning the work of implementing the steps outlined in this important document, with the assistance of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee and the broader community.

To support community groups across the Mid Murray, Council recently approved 24 Community Grants totalling in excess of \$46,000. These grants will assist with a range of initiatives, from providing life-saving defibrillators at community facilities to running local events and improving sport and recreation facilities. Grants through this program provide support to many important activities, and with this in mind, Council has agreed to increase its Community Grants budget to \$80,000 in 2023/24.

In an initiative to improve customer experience, Council has implemented a one number customer service system. No matter where you reside, or what your enquiry may be, the number to call for all customer service enquiries is (08) 8569 0100. The new system will improve each customer's experience by streamlining the process of contacting Council, and delivering a higher level of customer service.

With the Local Government election currently upon us, I would like to thank each of our Elected Members for their service over the past four-year term. I encourage everyone in Mid Murray who is eligible to vote to do so, if you haven't already, to have a say in how you'd like to shape the future of our district. Four Councillors have already been elected unopposed in Mid Murray's Shearer Ward – congratulations to Kelly Gladigau, Victoria Hammond, Kirsty MacGregor and Mandy Toczec McPeake. Elections are currently being held for the position of Mayor and in the Eyre and Murray Wards.

I look forward to welcoming the remainder of the Elected Members, who will lead Council for the next four years.

Ben Scales, Chief Executive Officer

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Have your say: Vote in your Local Government election

Close of voting - 5pm, 10 November 2022

Participating in your local Council election is one of the most effective ways you can make a difference to everyday life in your community, please make your vote count in 2022.

Voting in a Council Election is done entirely by post, if you are enrolled to vote you will receive your ballot papers through the post between Friday 14 October and Thursday 20 October 2022. Close of voting is 5:00pm Thursday 10 November 2022.

Authorised by Ben Scales, CEO, 49 Adelaide Road, Mannum SA 5238

High River Murray Flows

The Mid Murray Council region will be subjected to high River Murray flows that may impede access to low lying areas throughout the Council. The SASES (State Emergency Service) are advising Council on the impacts that will be experienced through these river flows and a forecast of infrastructure precautionary measures has been aligned to meet with these high flows. It is projected at this time that the flows will reach between 75-80GL at the border in late October/early November which will have an impact on shack areas, road access and individual sites for Community Wastewater Management Schemes. For further information please visit:

- www.ses.sa.gov.au
- www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au
- www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au

The current advice from the Department of Environment and Water and the SASES is that the flows expected will be less than the 2016 event based on the current forecast. To view Council's schedule of infrastructure shutdowns and road closures please visit the Mid Murray webpage or Facebook page.

Free Hard Waste Disposal Vouchers

Don't forget that in 2022/2023, Council is offering Free Hard Waste Disposal Vouchers to eligible ratepayers within the Mid Murray Council area.

Free Hard Waste Disposal Vouchers are available to non-commercial, residential properties who receive a kerbside collection service/Transfer Station Access Card and allows ratepayers to dispose of two free level 8' x 5' trailer loads of waste to any of Mid Murray Council's Waste Transfer Station Facilities.

Hard rubbish, also known as hard waste, are your rubbish items that don't fit into or are not accepted in your general waste bins, including household furniture and waste, building material and green waste.

Excluded Materials: asbestos, tyres, mattresses/ensembles and contractor's waste. These waste items attract additional charges and will be charged separately.

Free Hard Waste Disposal Vouchers are available now and are by online application only. To apply for your Voucher, or for further information, visit the council's website.

Transfer Stations

The new schedule of Transfer Station openings will align with the common visitation periods, being weekends, with a supplement mid-week opening Mannum (weekly) and Morgan (fortnightly). All Transfer Stations will remain open with specific sites having a rotational opening. Council will review these opening periods after 12 months of operation.

This new schedule will commence in February 2023 and will be advertised prior to implementation.

Mosquito Season



It's mosquito season again and Council is asking all residents to cover up by wearing long, loose fitting clothing and using an insect repellent containing diethyl toluamide (DEET) or Picaridin. Try to avoid going outside during dusk and dawn, as this is when the mosquitoes are most active.

Check around your home to ensure there are no pools of stagnant water in places such as pot plant saucers, bird baths, wading pools, gutters, septic tanks, rainwater tanks (paraffin oil can be put into the rainwater tanks), old tyres, ponds and dams. Check fly screens on your doors and windows – they don't need a big hole to get in.

Council is continually monitoring mosquito numbers at trapping sites throughout the region, as well as treating problem mosquito breeding sites, but mosquito numbers can only be controlled to a certain degree so it is most important to cover up when going outside. Nobody deserves a mosquito bite!

Find out more at: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/FightTheBite



Fire Prevention

"Waiting for the Fire Danger Season is too late"

In South Australia, Section 105F (1) of the Fire & Emergency Services Act 2005, makes it a requirement for:

An owner of private land must take reasonable steps —

- (a) to prevent or inhibit the outbreak of fire on the land; and
- (b) to prevent or inhibit the spread of fire through the land; and
- (c) to protect property on the land from fire; and
- (d) to minimise the threat to human life from a fire on the land.

An expiation fee of \$473 is applicable or a Maximum penalty of \$5 000 applies

Each year, Council's Fire Prevention Officers experience frustrations with many landowners or occupiers who choose to ignore the requirements of the Fire & Emergency Services Act (the Act), relating to their responsibilities to manage the fire risks on their land.

In October, Council's Fire Prevention Officers have commenced inspections of all properties within the Council district, to ensure landowners or occupants have complied with their responsibilities of the provisions of the Act. Those failing to comply with these requirements may be issued a fine for doing so and will be issued Orders in accordance with Section 105F (5) of the Act, to reduce the hazards on their land. The failure for a land owner to comply with an Order to reduce the hazards on their land, may result in a further expiation being issued.

Council's Fire Prevention Officers and the CFS are passionate in ensuring you are all prepared for the Fire Danger Season. It is with this in mind that Council seek everyone's support in ensuring your properties are prepared for the fire danger season, and not wait for a reminder from the Council before undertaking the appropriate works.

You can be bushfire ready even if you are planning to leave early or renting your home.

Should you have any questions or require further information on preparing your property for the fire danger season, please feel free to contact Council's Fire Prevention Officer at any office of Council or the CFS.

It is your life and property you are protecting and that of your community, so "start work now!"

Tips to prepare your property for Fire Danger Season

Around your property

- Mow or slash ground vegetation
- Remove any fallen branches
- Move flammable piles away from dwellings and sheds
- Manage all fuel loads on your property
- Regularly inspect your property

Around your home

- Clean your gutters
- Clear underfloor areas
- Check vents, crevices and anywhere debris can gather



MID MURRAY Toy Libraries

Mid Murray Family Connections, in partnership with Mid Murray Council's Libraries, have come together to deliver two toy libraries for our communities, which are available at both Blanchetown and Morgan Libraries.

The service provides families with free access to a variety of inclusive, educational toys, games and puzzles to meet the developmental needs of children aged 0-8 years. It aims to assist families in providing fun learning experiences and promoting children's development in language, numeracy, social interaction, creativity, muscle development and more.



Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program

The installation of the supplementary fire tank (located at the corner of Hermanns and Gladigau Roads, Mount Torrens) has now been completed. Water fill and other peripheral works are to occur in due course.



CONTACT DETAILS

All Correspondence to -

Mid Murray Council

PO Box 28, Mannum SA 5238

email: postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au | website: www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au | phone: (08) 8569 0100

Principal Office/ Administration

49 Adelaide Road, Mannum, SA

Development & Environmental Services

Main Street, Cambrai, SA

Morgan & Districts Community Hub

Cnr Fourth & Eighth Street, Morgan, SA