

Mid Murray Council Newsletter

August 2023

A Message from the Mayor

As we enter a new financial year, Council is already working towards its priorities for the year ahead, with a focus on improved sustainability and the continuing flood recovery efforts.

The River Murray flood has had a significant impact on so many people in our area, and we know those effects are still being felt as clean-up and rebuilding work continues.

While Council has its own challenges, it is committed to reviewing relief options for our ratepayers impacted by this disaster, once all our costs are known. We also continue to lobby for more State and Federal funding support to assist with recovery and relief measures and also a fairer share of Federal Financial Assistance Grants for regional Councils to ensure long term sustainability.

Council has finalised its 2023-24 Annual Business Plan and Budget following community feedback, and will continue to look at ways to provide services and programs that are valued by the community in an efficient and cost effective way within the resource restrictions that we have. A summary of this document is enclosed with your rates notice.

On a positive note, the State Government has made changes to its Planning and Design Code, including increasing the maximum finished floor level of homes built in flood risk areas. Further information on these changes can be found on Page 3.

This, along with several of the other changes, is something Council advocated for before, during and following the floods. Having these measures in place now gives clarity to our affected landowners as they prepare plans for rebuilding. These measures will also guide building and development in these areas and, we hope, will put property owners in a position to better withstand future floods.

Working towards improved financial sustainability is a core aim for Council during this term.

A review is already underway of our Strategic Plan – thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent survey. An updated Draft Strategic Plan will now be created by Council and released for comment later this year, and I encourage you to again have your say as this document will guide Council's priorities and operations over the coming decade.

Council is continuing its work to review all our operations to identify cost savings and efficiencies. This is something Council has been committed to over the past few years, however it is also in response to ESCOSA's recommendations earlier this year to guide Council towards a more financially sustainable future.

We continue to face significant cost pressures, the impact of which has been compounded by additional flood recovery expenses. These challenges are expected to continue across the coming 12 months and we have prepared our 2023-24 Annual Business Plan and Budget with this in mind.

Last month I had the honour of attending Council's annual NAIDOC Week celebrations. With the theme 'For Our Elders', this year's event celebrated the important role Elders play in our Mid Murray community as advocates, leaders, and mentors.

This was an opportune time to reflect on Council's progress towards reconciliation, with the adoption in 2022 of its first Reconciliation Action Plan. Implementing this plan will also be a focus for the year ahead.

It is also great to see the community and thousands of visitors enjoying the Illuminate Adelaide River Lights event in Mannum. This has been a fantastic opportunity to support and enable the community to connect, as well as stimulate the local economy after a challenging year, with many businesses having to close during the floods and some only recently re-opening. Council is appreciative of the SATC and the State Government for their ongoing support of the region.

All the best for the months ahead, and hopefully that with the recent rains, it will be a good season for our farmers and primary producers, and the broader agricultural community. Our farming sector are valued members of our community and their resilience through drought and flood is to be admired.

Simone Bailey, Mid Murray Mayor

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Across every generation, our Elders have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities and families.

The Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated (MACAI) in partnership with Mannum Community College and Mid Murray Council have again this year come together for a wonderful NAIDOC week celebration.

More than 400 people turned out to help celebrate the day, which commenced with a Welcome to Country, flag raising, smoking ceremony and a Cultural Dance performance by Dave Booth. The celebrations then continued with a 'together as one' march to Mannum Oval, where we had the Fun4Youth giant games, traditional wurly making and lots more.



Transfer Station sustainability implementation - changes to operating schedule

In September 2022, Council endorsed changes to Transfer Station operating times and schedules. These changes were to be implemented in February 2023, however, due to the recent River Murray Flood event, implementation of the new operating schedule was postponed to allow for concentrated efforts in the clean up and recovery process post flood.

Implementation of the new operating schedule will now be effective from Tuesday, 3 October 2023. To view the new operation schedule, please visit the Waste section on Council's website.

Community communications

Council regularly seeks feedback through surveys, consultations and public engagements, and would love to understand how best to reach its community members to ensure we hear your thoughts.

To help us serve you better, please let us know how you want to hear from Council by completing our Community Communications survey on Council's website:

www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/survey

Alternatively, you can access a hardcopy of the survey from our Morgan, Blanchetown, Cambrai or Mannum offices, or call 08 8569 0100 to complete it over the phone. We look forward to hearing from you!

**WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**

FIGHT THE BITE



We all know mosquitoes can be a nuisance, but some can spread serious disease such as Murray Valley Encephalitis. Now is the time to start mosquito proofing your home to reduce the risk of mosquito bites and remember to cover up and apply insect repellent to reduce your chances of being bitten.

DOGS AND CATS ONLINE



Now is the time to renew your dog and cat registrations on DACO

Dog owners are reminded that registration of all dogs fall due on 1 July each year and the renewal of all expired dog registrations must be paid prior to 31 August each year. Failure to pay the registration fee by the due date will result in a \$15.00 late fee and an expiation fine of \$170.00 may be applied.

Cat owners are also reminded that all cats over the age of 3 months must be desexed (if born after July 2018), microchipped and registered on DACO. There is no fee from Council associated with cat registrations on DACO. Cat owners are only required to check and update their personal details and the details of their cats annually.

Should you have any questions or require assistance with registering your dog or cat please contact Council's Animal Management Officers on 8569 0100.

Re-building after the River Murray flood



New planning rules to assist the rebuilding process and mitigate the impacts of future River Murray flood events are now in place and open for community feedback.

The draft **River Murray Flood Resilience Code Amendment** aims to provide clearer guidance for impacted communities to rebuild more flood-resilient development.

The Department for Trade and Investment, Planning and Land Use Services division, has worked closely with flood affected Councils, State government agencies and the building and construction industry to identify opportunities to improve the Code to help mitigate future flood risk and support sustainable, resilient communities.

The community is invited to give their feedback on the draft Code Amendment so their needs and concerns can be considered in finalising the proposed policy changes. To provide feedback, visit <https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/River-Murray-Flood-Resilience>.

Consultation closes at **5pm on Friday 25 August 2023**. More information on the Code Amendment can be found on the PlanSA website https://plan.sa.gov.au/our_planning_system/programs_and_initiatives/re-building-after-the-river-murray-flood

Mannum Waters Separate Rate - Rebate

In December 2022, Dr Susan Close, Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, wrote to Council informing them that there would be no requirement to cover a water allocation for Mannum Waters Marina annual evaporation loss for the period 1 September 2022 until 30 June 2023.

Based on this information, Council took the opportunity to sell the 156ML allocated to this on the temporary water market. Due to the flood conditions, the market for temporary water was at a record low level during 2023. The balance of the proceeds, less council's 20% contribution, have been distributed based on the same proportion that each property contributed to the levy.

For relevant rate payers, a credit will be present on your 2023/24 rate notice for your property's portion of the net sale proceeds. For further information please refer to the Rates section on Council's website.





What can you put in your bins?

Household Waste (**RED** lid) - 140L bin

Weekly collection



Broken crockery, broken glass, mirrors, ceramics, window glass (wrapped), chip packets, lolly & chocolate wrappers, cleaning cloths & sponges, disposable nappies, fabric, linen, clothing (check donation options before disposal), food scraps (compost/feed to worm farm/chooks where possible), pet waste/kitty litter (bagged/wrapped), polystyrene foam, (meat trays, takeaway containers, cups etc), soft plastics (cling film, bubble wrap), string, rope, plastic strapping, netting, video & audio tapes



Building materials (ie concrete, bricks & sawdust), electronic appliances, liquids (ie paints, oil, solvents & chemicals), garden materials (dirt/rocks), LPG gas bottles, hazardous/medical waste, soil & sand, hot ash (cold ash must be wrapped), asbestos, large pieces of metal, recyclable materials

Household Recycling (**Yellow** lid) - 240L bin

Fortnightly collection



Paper, shredded paper (if contained inside a paper bag or box), newspaper, magazines, catalogues, envelopes & junk mail, cardboard boxes, egg cartons, pizza boxes (without food scraps), cartons such as milk, juice & stock cartons, aluminium & steel cans/tins, metal lids (contained in a steel or aluminium can), empty dry paint tins, empty aerosol cans, glass bottles & jars (rinsed with lids off), plastic bottles & containers (rinsed with lids off), yoghurt & butter containers (rinsed with lids off)



Plastic lids from jars & bottles, garden waste or organic material, plastic bags & other soft plastics, car parts, tissues & paper towel, nappies, clothing & fabrics, cds, dvds, videos or audio tapes, polystyrene foam packaging, foam trays & cups, crockery or drinking glasses, mirrors, light globes, oven-proof or window glass, toys, food scraps & packaging contaminated with food

PS Canally progress

The PS Canally was brought to Mannum in late June 2022 for hull repairs, and was safely moored at the Mannum Dock during the floods.

Significant work has been undertaken while in Mannum, including technical steam engineering works, plumbing and fire detection systems being installed. Further work on the deck, rail and stairs is being planned with a return to Morgan in the near future.

Pictured on her voyage to Mannum in June 2022, this was the first time PS Canally was moved under her own steam since 1940. The journey of 260km took two days with the excited crew of eight volunteers testing and tinkering with her along the way.

Work to complete the restoration of the PS Canally continues under a grant from the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program.



Photo by Stephen Hausler

CONTACT DETAILS

All Correspondence to -

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