

MEDIA RELEASE

MID MURRAY COMMUNITY ASKED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON FUTURE COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The Mid Murray community is being asked to have their say on what they believe should be the priorities for the area's Council into the future.

The Mid Murray Council Community Priorities Survey is now open, and the feedback gathered from local residents, businesses and property owners will help shape changes to the Council's strategic direction, as well as guiding its long-term sustainability focus.

The survey asks people to identify what they value about current operations, what they'd like to see change and how they believe the Council can make the Mid Murray a better place.

Mid Murray Mayor Simone Bailey said the survey was a key component of Council's community consultation ahead of updating its Strategic Plan.

"One of our commitments to the Mid Murray community for the coming year is to review our Strategic Plan, with a view to identifying financial sustainability measures, cost savings and efficiencies," Mayor Bailey said.

"Before we begin work on that process, it's so important for us to understand which of the services, programs, infrastructure and initiatives Council provides that our community already values, as well as what they believe needs to change, and what we could be doing to improve things.

"Council does have challenges in continuing to operate in an environment of rising costs, while still facing the financial impact of recovery and rebuilding from the recent Murray River flood. We do have statutory services that we are obligated to provide as well, and we need to ensure these are delivered in an efficient and effective way.

"In addition to those essential services, facilities and programs, Council manages a wide range of other activities and it may be that some of these are no longer required, or are not delivering a benefit to our community.

"The feedback we receive from our community through this survey will give us a clear picture of what people want us to retain, what they're comfortable with us changing and where they want us to head into the future. This will be invaluable in creating a Strategic Plan that meets the changing needs of our community in a time of challenging economic pressures."

The survey is open now and can be completed online at <https://bit.ly/MMCCommunitySurvey> or in hardcopy from Council's offices. It will run until 19 June 2023.

Information collected through the survey will be used by Council to create an updated draft Strategic Plan and to inform sustainability planning. The updated draft Strategic Plan will be presented to the community for consultation later this year.

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