MID MURRAY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MID MURRAY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MAIN STREET, CAMBRAI, ON FRIDAY, 1 DECEMBER, 2017

PRESENT:
Cr Kevin Myers (Chairperson), Mayor Dave Burgess, Cr Steve Wilkinson, Kay Schmid, Shane McGrath, Helen Griffiths, Sharon Jardine and Greg Hill (from 10.45am)

IN ATTENDANCE:
Russell Peate, Chief Executive Officer
Joel Taggart, Acting Director – Development & Environmental Services
Jake McVicar, Acting Manager – Development Services
Rocky Warren, Manager – Regulatory Services
Aimee Linke, Mid Murray Landcare SA Project Manager
Heather Caudle, WHS & Risk Management Coordinator
Melissa Marschall, Minute Secretary

COMMENCEMENT AND WELCOME: 10.11 AM
The Chairperson welcomed all members.

APOLOGIES:
Cr Adriaan Sakko, Cr Brian Taylor, Cr Mardi Jennings, Amy Loechel and Greg Hill (for lateness)

200/1 Mayor Burgess moved that the apologies be received.
Seconded S McGrath.
CARRIED.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:
Cr Brenton Schmitt

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:
Nil.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:
(Page 183 – 26/6/2017)

200/2 K Schmid moved that the Minutes of the Mid Murray Council Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting held on 26 June 2017 be taken as read and confirmed, subject to the correct spelling of Mayor Burgess’ name in resolution 183/2 – Confirmation of Previous Minutes.
Seconded Cr Wilkinson.
CARRIED.
CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES CONT’D:

(Page 199 – 1/9/2017)

201/1 S McGrath moved that the Minutes of the Mid Murray Council Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting held on 1 September 2017 be taken as read and confirmed, subject to Sharon Jardine being included as an apology. Seconded Cr Wilkinson. CARRIED.

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT:

See Minute Book pages 205 – 230.

201/2 Cr Wilkinson moved that the report be received. Seconded S Jardine. CARRIED.

Mid Murray On Ground Works – Mid Murray Landcare SA

201/3 Cr Wilkinson moved that the report titled ‘Mid Murray On Ground Works – Mid Murray Landcare SA’ be received and noted. Seconded S Jardine. CARRIED.

Habitat Stepping Stones – Mid Murray Landcare SA

201/4 Cr Wilkinson moved that the report titled ‘Habitat Stepping Stones – Mid Murray Landcare SA’ be received and noted. Seconded S Jardine. CARRIED.

Mid Murray Landcare SA – Staff Report

201/5 S Jardine moved that the report titled ‘Mid Murray Landcare Staff Reports’ be received and noted. Seconded S McGrath. CARRIED.

Register of Council Properties and Initiatives on Crown Lands

201/6 Cr Wilkinson moved that the report titled ‘Register of Council Projects and Initiatives on Crown Lands’ be received and noted. Seconded S McGrath. CARRIED.

201/7 S Jardine moved that pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Working Party orders that the Confidential attachment in relation to Item D Register of Council Projects and Initiatives on Crown Lands – Register remain confidential and not available for public inspection until released by Council and that this order be reviewed in twelve months. Seconded S McGrath. CARRIED.
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT CONT’D:

Dark Sky Nomination Update

202/1 S Jardine moved that the report titled ‘Dark Sky Nomination Update’ be received and noted.
Seconded Cr Wilkinson.

CARRIED.

Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan – Grant Funding Submissions

202/2 Cr Wilkinson moved that the report titled ‘Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan – Grant Funding Submissions’ be received and noted.
Seconded S Jardine.

CARRIED.

Community Land Management Plan Review Process

202/3 S McGrath moved that it be recommended to Council that:

(1) It be noted that the Manager – Governance is now progressing the review of Community Land Management Plans; and

(2) The $10,000 allocated in 2017/18 budget to allow Mid Murray Landcare SA to assist in the review of Community Land Management Plans be redirected to assist with the rollout of projects within the Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan.

Seconded Cr Wilkinson.

CARRIED.

Proposed Off Leash Area for Dogs on Mannum Oval

10.45 AM Greg Hill entered the meeting.

202/4 Cr Wilkinson moved that it be recommended to Council that Council consult with dog owners that use the oval regarding the feedback received and possible options and a report be submitted to the next Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee.
Seconded S Jardine.

CARRIED.
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT CONT’D:

Memorials and Cemeteries Policy

203/1 Cr Wilkinson moved that it be recommended to Council that:

(1) The report titled Draft Memorials and Cemeteries Policy be received;

(2) Subject to minor amendments as deemed necessary by the Manager – Governance and/or Acting Manager – Development Services the draft Memorials & Cemeteries Policy be noted and tabled at a future Council meeting for endorsement as being suitable for public consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, subject to; and

(3) The community members who made the requests for memorial benches be contacted and advised of the progress and process required to be undertaken by Council prior to their requests being answered.

Seconded S McGrath. CARRIED.

Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan Implementation Update (Work Plan)

203/2 S Jardine moved that it be recommended to Council that it endorse the Mid Murray Council’s Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan ‘Work Plan’.
Seconded S McGrath. CARRIED.

11.03 AM The meeting adjourned.

11.03 AM Russell Peate and Rocky Warren left the meeting and did not return.

11.10 AM The meeting resumed.

VIRTUAL TOUR OF POTENTIAL SURPLUS COUNCIL PROPERTIES:

A virtual tour was held of potential surplus Council properties.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Free Camping

H Griffiths queries the availability and promotion of free camping throughout the Council area. Advised there are a number of free camping sites that exist throughout the area.

RV Area – Bowhill

S McGrath queried the possibility of works being undertaken at Bowhill to enhance RV access and the installation of a RV dump point. Advised to prepare a concept plan and submit to Council for consideration.
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT CONT’D:

NEXT MEETING:

To be held in the Council Chambers, Main Street, Cambrai on Monday, 26 February 2018, commencing at 10.00am.

CLOSURE:

11.50 AM The Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

..................................................
CHAIRPERSON

..................................................
DATE
MID MURRAY COUNCIL

Report for the Meeting of the Mid Murray Council Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee, to be held in the Council Chambers, Main Street, Cambrai, on Friday, 1 December, 2017

A. Mid Murray On Ground Works – Mid Murray Landcare SA

**Reporting Officer**  Aimee Linke  
**Position**  Mid Murray Landcare SA Project Manager

**Report Purpose**

To inform the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee on weed control works implemented on Mid Murray Council nature reserves.

**Introduction/Background**

Mid Murray Landcare SA has been funded by the SA MDB NRM Board and the Australian Government National Landcare Program for a total of $10,000 excluding GST to contribute to landscape scale restoration of native vegetation within the region. Specific sites have been selected in consultation with the Senior Project Officer - Ranges to River to achieve this goal and is due to be completed by June 2018.

**Discussion**

The reserves that have been selected for on ground work;

A4612 - Towitta Spring – Weed control of Silver Leaf-Nightshade, St John’s Wort, cotton bush, pepper trees, onion weed and any other opportunistic weed control.
A. Mid Murray On Ground Works – Mid Murray Landcare SA cont’d

A2812 & A2818 - Kanappa Springs – Weed control of peppertrees, boxthorn, cotton bush, onion weed, silver leaf nightshade and any other opportunistic weed control.

A2806 - Pines Reserve, Sanderston – bridal creeper, boxthorn and any other opportunistic weed control.

Permission for on ground works has been sought and approved by the Mid Murray Council’s Director – Infrastructure Services, Greg Hill.

**Conclusion**

A Services Agreement has been drawn up for the contractor and all requirements have been agreed upon - works commenced August 2017. Works completed to date include Bridal Creeper outbreaks at all reserves, it was extensive in the Pines with approximately 380 patches treated, and photo points have been established. There was also follow-up boxthorn, pepper tree, cotton-bush, gazania and artichoke thistles control. Points of interest include a sighting of a Hooded Robin at Kannapa Springs which is listed as rare in the Murraylands region and *Glycine rubiginosa* at Towitta springs which is rated as near threatened in the Murraylands region. There will be further works in summer on silver-leafed Nightshade and St Johns Wort.
A. Mid Murray On Ground Works – Mid Murray Landcare SA cont’d

References

Community Plan  Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment
  Facilitate an active partnership between Council and
  Community to:
  Theme 1.3 – Lobby, advocate and promote for improved
  environmental protection outcomes through
  implementation of best practice planning policy.

Budget  No budget impact, funded by Mid Murray Landcare.

Legislation  Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
  Act 1999.

Recommendation
  Moved __________________ Seconded __________________
  that the report titled ‘Mid Murray On Ground Works – Mid Murray Landcare SA’
  be received and noted.
B. Habitat Stepping Stones – Mid Murray Landcare SA

Reporting Officer          Aimee Linke
Position                  Mid Murray Landcare SA Project Manager

Report Purpose
To inform the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee on the Habitat Stepping Stones Project.

Introduction/Background
Mid Murray Landcare SA is supporting the Habitat Stepping Stones project whose aim is to support and promote biodiversity in backyards. This project will provide a webpage link from the Mid Murray Council webpage to Habitat Stepping Stones where users can pledge to increase biodiversity in their own backyard. The webpage is designed to take people through the different layers of vegetation and what benefits they provide for our native fauna. By pledging your property it will be pin-pointed on a map with a parrot icon and you will be sent a small plaque that can be put on your front fence or gate.

Discussion
The webpage provides a species list of the local plant species for this region and a list of suppliers. The list of suppliers has been updated to include local nurseries and other retailers which was researched by one of our volunteers and provided to the webpage manager in NSW. Mid Murray Landcare SA has redeveloped the front garden at their office to be educational on habitat with interpretive signs, promoting the plants that are included on the webpage and grown in their nursery. There is also some promotional material that can be printed and used at the different Council offices, including a banner, brochures and a Cambrai Community Nursery flyer.

Conclusion
The project has been launched with a media release prepared by the Mid Murray Council and featured in the Leader newspaper and was sent to all the Progress Associations. Landholders have begun pledging and the first 25 pledgers will be provided with 2 free plants from the Cambrai Community Nursery to support their habitat project.

References

Community Plan

**Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment**
Facilitate an active partnership between Council and Community to:
Theme 1.1 – Deliver topical and regular environmental education programs. (Such as reuse/recycle campaigns).

Theme 1.2 – Design community led solutions to local problems. (Such as erosion of River banks, carp control, water quality).

Theme 1.3 – Lobby, advocate and promote for improved environmental protection outcomes through implementation of best practice planning policy.
B. Habitat Stepping Stones – Mid Murray Landcare SA cont’d

Budget Annual subscription of $2,200 + GST allocated in Council’s budget.


Recommendation
Moved __________________ Seconded __________________

that the report titled ‘Habitat Stepping Stones – Mid Murray Landcare SA’ be received and noted.
Mid Murray Landcare SA – Staff Report

Reporting Officer: Joel Taggart
Position: Acting Director – Development & Environmental Services

Report Purpose

To provide the Committee and Council an overview of the work being undertaken by Aimee Linke, the Mid Murray Council Landcare Program Manager.

Discussion

Attached are five staff reports from Aimee Linke, who is employed by Mid Murray Landcare to manage their various projects within the Council region.

The reports are provided monthly by Ms Linke to Council staff, and these will now be provided to the Committee and Council on a regular basis for the interest of Elected Members and members of the community. These reports highlight the important work undertaken by Mid Murray Landcare on a month by month basis.

Ms Linke will be present at the Committee meeting to discuss any comments on her report further.

Refer Appendix C.

References

Community Plan
Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment
Facilitate an active partnership between Council and Community to:
Theme 1.6 – Develop and implement an Open Space Strategy that balances the needs of residents and transient population.

Theme 2: Community Wellbeing
Facilitate an active partnership between Council, key Agencies (regional development, health services and employment and training services) to encourage ‘game changing’ activities:
Theme 2.8 – Strategically prioritise opportunities for community engagement, connection and participation.

Budget
There are no budget implications related to this report, given that this project is externally funded, however Council does provide some in kind support to the Mid Murray Landcare.

Legislation

Recommendation
Moved __________________ Seconded __________________
that the report titled ‘Mid Murray Landcare Staff Reports’ be received and noted.
D. **Register of Council Projects and Initiatives on Crown Lands**

**Reporting Officer**  
Joel Taggart

**Position**  
Acting Director – Development & Environmental Services

**Report Purpose**

To provide the Committee and Council an overview of the various day to day activities being discussed between Council staff and the Crown Lands Unit of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR).

**Discussion**

Given the large tract of River Murray contained within the Council area, combined with the numerous recreation and conservation parks, as well as various roadside reserves, Council staff have regular ongoing dealings with DEWNR’s Crown Lands staff. This is due to many development proposals, compliance issues and land tenure issues requiring advice from Crown Lands staff, given they oversee the management of all ‘Crown Lands’ (essentially public land that is not under the operation/care and control of another Government Department or Minister). Of note is the importance that much of the Crown Land plays in protecting the river environment – much of the Crown Land is covered by remnant native vegetation and is largely undeveloped.

A register of the various projects/initiatives that Council and Crown Land staff are working on has been developed. Given the sometimes sensitive nature of this work (e.g. dealing with legal matters and/or leases), the Register is confidential.

It is proposed that staff will regularly update both the Committee and Council as to the progress of various actions and projects on this register. Staff are also more than happy to receive comments on the various listings from both Committee Members and Elected Members. Other projects may also be identified by both groups as well.

The Register can be found in Confidential Appendix D.

Refer Confidential Appendix D.

**References**

**Community Plan**

**Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment**

Facilitate an active partnership between Council and Community to:

- Theme 1.6 – Develop and implement an Open Space Strategy that balances the needs of residents and transient population.

- Theme 1.8 – Advocate, protect and enhance the River Murray Corridor.

**Budget**

There are no budget implications related to this report.

**Legislation**

D. **Register of Council Projects and Initiatives on Crown Lands cont’d**

**Recommendation**
Moved __________________ Seconded __________________
that the report titled ‘Register of Council Projects and Initiatives on Crown Lands’ be received and noted

**Recommendation**
Moved __________________ Seconded __________________
that pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Working Party orders that the Confidential attachment in relation to Item D Register of Council Projects and Initiatives on Crown Lands – Register remain confidential and not available for public inspection until released by Council and that this order be reviewed in twelve months.
E. Dark Sky Nomination Update

Reporting Officer: Joel Taggart
Position: Acting Director – Development & Environmental Services

Report Purpose

To provide the Committee and Council an overview of the development and progress of the application by Mid Murray Landcare SA to designate a portion of the Mid Murray Council area as a ‘Dark Sky Reserve’.

Introduction/Background

It should be noted that this matter was recently reported on to Council, and at that meeting it was resolved that Council formally endorse a submission to the International Dark Sky Association (IDSA) (http://www.darksky.org). It should also be noted that this nomination for a Dark Sky Reserve would be an Australian first. To date, a range of community promotion and stakeholder engagement has occurred. In addition, a formal nomination has now been sent to the IDSA.

The nomination is contained with Appendix E.

Refer Appendix E.

Discussion

Given the potential benefits a formal ‘dark sky’ accreditation would have for Mid Murray Council, particularly from a tourism perspective, Council is collaborating with Mid Murray Landcare SA in order to nominate the area of land between Cambrai and Sunnydale as a ‘Dark Sky Reserve’. Meldanda at Cambrai is earmarked to be the ‘hub’ of this project, given that it is already set up as a nature based tourism facility.

About the ‘Dark Sky Reserve’ Concept

The International Dark Sky Association is an American based not-for-profit organisation that seeks to preserve the night sky from light pollution. Where possible, it seeks to recognise these geographical areas of Dark Sky through recognising them as ‘Dark Sky Places’ (there are 5 applicable categories). The organisation’s website (www.darksky.org) provides ample information on the Dark Sky concept and how it is applied across the world. Some information from their website is detailed below -

Our Mission

IDA works to protect the night skies for present and future generations.

Our Goals

- Advocate for the protection of the night sky
- Educate the public and policymakers about night sky conservation
- Promote environmentally responsible outdoor lighting
- Empower the public with the tools and resources to help bring back the night.
E. **Dark Sky Nomination Update cont’d**

**History**

International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) is a 501(c)(3) (tax ID #: 74-2493011) founded in 1988, and is dedicated to protecting the night skies for present and future generations.

**Light pollution** – the inappropriate use of artificial light at night – is an environmental pollutant that harms our planet and robs us of the opportunity to experience the wonder of a natural night sky.

Today, IDA is the recognized authority for night sky protection and has taken the lead in identifying and publicizing the negative impacts of artificial light at night on human health, wildlife and climate change.

We work with the public, city planners, legislators, lighting manufacturers, parks, and protected areas to provide and implement smart lighting choices.

Our public outreach efforts provide solutions, quality education, and programs that inform audiences across the United States and throughout the world. At the local level, our mission is furthered through the work of our U.S. and international chapters representing five continents.

**Council’s Role**

Whilst Council has only a minimal role in facilitating this proposal, given Mid Murray Landcare SA is leading this project, Council has provided a small amount of funding to cover the costs associated with a consultant assisting in the nomination process. Given this is an international process, it was considered the best option to engage external professional assistance to prepare the nomination.

Council will be involved in the following ways as the project develops -

- Providing a formal letter of support to Mid Murray Landcare SA from the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor.
- Ensuring that Council policies are consistent with the notion of a “Dark Sky”.
- To liaise with other levels of Government, particularly with DPTI who own many street lights in the region, as well as the River Murray ferries.
- Potentially undertaking a lighting audit of lights in public spaces within the area.
- Developing a ‘Light Management Plan/Policy’.
- Considering any flow on effects of this initiative to Development Plan policies.
- Acting as a conduit for information flow to the community.

**Where to from here?**

Council has worked with Mid Murray Landcare SA on the nomination process. This nomination has now been lodged with the Dark Sky Association directly by the Mid Murray Landcare SA group, however given the importance and likely benefits of this project, Council funded a consultant (Jenny Fleming – professional writer) to assist the Mid Murray Landcare SA group with its submission. Council’s Tourism Manager, Deb Alexander, has also assisted in obtaining a range of letters of support for the application.
E. **Dark Sky Nomination Update cont’d**

Whilst no community consultation as such will occur as part of the nomination and listing process, the community will be kept informed of the progress of this project via Council’s website, Facebook and various media releases. Consultation is not needed given that no individual properties will be negatively affected by this proposal (i.e. it is not like a heritage listing that restricts development).

It is considered that this proposal, should it be approved by the Dark Sky Association and the ‘Dark Sky Reserve’ becomes a reality, benefits of the proposal are listed below –

- Environmental benefits in terms of the reduction of light spill into the night sky, which also can benefit local fauna.
- Significant tourism potential for local, national and international tourists to visit Mid Murray Council and observe the unique dark night skies.
- Business multiplier effects for business.
- Will assist in the further promotion of the area.
- Will be aspirational for other areas to achieve such status.
- The proposal reinforces the branding of Mid Murray Council as being a nature-based and relaxing area for tourism.

**Conclusion**

Overall it is considered that this is a unique and enterprising initiative that capitalises on a natural asset of the Mid Murray region (the Dark Sky). Mid Murray Council is in a unique position, given its largely flat and dry landscape, proximity to Adelaide, as well as the absence of major towns/developments and the fact that it is sheltered from the lights of Adelaide by the Mt Lofty Ranges. Should the area become a formal ‘Dark Sky Reserve’, there will be many tourism opportunities, which will assist with the further economic development of the area.

**References**

**Community Plan**

**Theme 3: Economic Development & Tourism**

*Aggressively grow the tourism industry sector by:*

Theme 3.6 – Working to cooperatively develop, promote, brand, market and recognise existing tourism infrastructure.

Theme 3.7 – Partnering and facilitating operator development of new tourism assets and experiences.

Theme 3.8 – Partnering and facilitating operator packaging of tourism products.

Theme 3.12 – Link tourism, regional and economic development and attraction efforts through the development of Mid Murray brand/positioning.

**Budget**

There are no budget implications directly related to this report, however Council is providing funds to pay for Jenny Fleming to assist with the nomination process.

**Legislation**

E. **Dark Sky Nomination Update cont'd**

**Recommendation**

Moved __________________ Seconded __________________

that the report titled ‘Dark Sky Nomination Update’ be received and noted.
F. Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan – Grant Funding Submissions

**Reporting Officer** Jake McVicar  
**Position** Acting Manager – Development Services

**Report Purpose**

To advise the Committee of the recent applications for State Government Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) Open Space and Places for People Grant.

**Introduction/Background**

Council had the opportunity to identify projects within the Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan which are eligible for grant funding through the Open Space and Places for People Grants administered by DPTI. This was seen as an opportunity to seek funding for projects which were not successful in receiving funding in the first round.

An overview of these grants is provided below:

*Open Space Grants* – to assist the conservation and enhancement of natural and cultural open spaces. These grants provide funding under the following categories:

- **Open Space Planning** (which includes concept plans, masterplans, detailed designs, open space and public realm strategies)
- **Development and enhancement of open space reserves** (including regional parks, linear parks, reserves and play spaces)
- **Strategic Land purchases** (to acquire land for public open space).

*Places for People Grants* – to create or revitalise public spaces that are important to the social, cultural and economic life of their communities. These grants provide funding under the following categories:

- **Planning and urban design** (such as urban design frameworks or masterplans across a Council area for places of strategic importance and/or detailed design and contract documentation for key public realm enhancement projects)
- **Development for prominent public spaces** (including foreshore, riverfront, linear park, main street precincts, civic plazas and town squares).

The scheme allows Council to submit applications which may include contributions from local community groups, but must have at least a 50% contribution from Council.

**Discussion**

Council’s Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan details a number of district priorities within townships which were deemed suitable for such grant funding. These include:
F. **Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan – Grant Funding**

Submissions cont’d

1. Mannum Waterfalls site, which has been identified by the community, Elected Members and staff as another site which is in need of concept planning. Not only would this project meet a number of guidelines within the grant funding scheme, it would also satisfy a number of strategies in Council’s Community Plan including **Theme 3: Economic Development & Tourism strategies**. This project would entail the development of a masterplan/concept plan for the site, working in collaboration with a number of stakeholders.

2. Len White Reserve and Wharf Precinct master planning at Swan Reach. This project would entail the development of a master plan/concept plan to guide future development in this overall precinct, including how best to activate the area, provide improved linkages to the town centre and how to redesign/upgrade the wharf.

Submissions for both projects have been lodged. As soon as it is known whether or not the applications were successful a report will be presented to the Committee advising of the outcome.

**References**

**Community Plan**

**Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment**

Facilitate an active partnership between Council and Community to:

Theme 1.6 – Develop and implement an Open Space Strategy that balances the needs of residents and transient population.

Theme 1.8 – Advocate, protect and enhance the River Murray Corridor.

**Theme 3: Economic Development & Tourism**

Aggressively grow the tourism industry sector by:

Theme 3.6 – Working to cooperatively develop, promote, brand, market and recognise existing tourism.

Theme 3.10 – Advocating for Government and private investment in industry development and resources.

Facilitate an active partnership between Council, Business and Community to:

Theme 3.14 – Actively promote, advertise and brand Mannum, in a contemporary and innovative manner, as a destination for tourism and business.

**Budget**

A successful grant application must include a Council contribution of no less than 50% of the total project value. Council is able to attribute staff wages that are proposed to be utilised for each project as part of its financial commitment to the project. Where required, budget bids and/or budget variation requests will be submitted by staff to Council for funding for these projects.

**Legislation**

Development Act 1993.
F. **Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan – Grant Funding Submissions cont’d**

**Recommendation**
Moved __________________ Seconded __________________
that the report titled 'Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan – Grant Funding Submissions' be received and noted.
G. Community Land Management Plan Review Process

**Reporting Officer**  
Jake McVicar

**Position**  
Acting Manager – Development Services

**Report Purpose**

To advise the Committee of the progress of Council’s ongoing review and development of Community Land Management Plans (CLMP) and future plans for divestment of Community Land.

**Discussion**

At the March 2017 Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting, members were provided with an example of the data sheet for all community land parcels within the Mid Murray Council, of which there are some 388 parcels.

From that initial list, Aimee Linke, Project Officer for Mid Murray Landcare SA, prepared a ‘Priority Plans’ spreadsheet which has identified those parcels of community land where either a CLMP needs to be prepared or if one exists, then reviewed and updated. The ‘Priority Plans’ were endorsed by the Committee and Council.

Council appointed a new Manager – Governance, Deb Brokenshire in July 2017. Through discussions between Deb Brokenshire, Aimee Linke and myself it has been decided that Deb Brokenshire will now manage the progressing and updating of all Community Land Management Plans considering it falls within her position description and she has considerable experience in writing these plans previously.

Deb will provide an update as to the progress she has made on these CLMP’s at the next (first meeting of 2018) Committee meeting.

Originally Council had allocated $10,000 for Aimee Linke of Mid Murray Landcare SA to undertake the review and updating of all CLMP’s. These funds are proposed to be re-directed to allow Aimee Linke and Mid Murray Landcare SA to assist in the roll out of projects from the Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan. The $10,000 is no longer required for the CLMP’s as these documents will be as basic as possible in accordance with the statutory requirements.

**Conclusion**

The Manager – Governance, will now progress the update of the CLMP’s to align with the roles and responsibilities outlined in the Position Description. This is typically where this function sits in most other Council’s.

The money originally allocated to assist in this process will now be re-directed to allow Aimee Linke to assist in the roll out of certain projects identified within the Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan.
G. Community Land Management Plan Review Process cont’d

References

Community Plan  
Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment  
Facilitate an active partnership between Council and Community to:  
Theme 1.7 – Undertake a review of Community Land Management Plans to ensure optimum and best environmental use of Council owned reserves.

Budget  
Redirection of budget funds from Community Land Management Plan Review to Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan implementation.

Legislation  

Recommendation

Moved __________________ Seconded __________________

that it be recommended to Council that

(3) It be noted that the Manager – Governance is now progressing the review of Community Land Management Plans; and

(4) The $10,000 allocated in 2017/18 budget to allow Mid Murray Landcare SA to assist in the review of Community Land Management Plans be redirected to assist with the rollout of projects within the Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan.
Proposed Off Leash Area for Dogs on Mannum Oval

Reporting Officer: Rocky Warren
Position: Manager – Regulatory Services

Report Purpose

Consider feedback received regarding a request for dogs to be permitted on the Mannum Oval and to be permitted to be off leash.

Introduction/Background

The area within the Mannum Oval precinct is used by the Mannum Football and Netball Clubs, Mannum Cricket Club, Mannum Show Society, Mannum Pony Club and members of the public wishing to use the facilities which include an enclosed off leash dog park, skate park and recreation area.

Image shows Mannum Oval Precinct with ✶ marking the enclosed off leash dog park
H. Proposed Off Leash Area for Dogs on Mannum Oval cont’d

Currently, dogs are not permitted on the grassed areas within the oval precinct, and all dogs must be on a leash at all times, except when being exercised within the enclosed off leash dog park.

Discussion

Council recently received a request (copy attached in Appendix H.1) that it consider that dogs be permitted on the grassed oval area within the Mannum Oval Precinct and be permitted off their leash to provide a greater exercise area for the dogs, similar to other shared facilities within South Australia, where facilities are shared between sporting facilities and dog owners. At present, there is no safe off leash area for dogs to be exercised.

As a result, Council wrote to the committees of the Mannum Football Club, Mannum Cricket Club and the Mannum Show Society, seeking their feedback on the proposal for the dogs to be permitted on the grassed oval area and to be off their leash.

In addition, Council undertook a letter drop to all the residents within the Mannum township, placed notices within the Mannum Magazine, Councils website and Facebook site seeking feedback from members of the public in relation to this proposal.

Furthermore, Council investigated the instances where facilities were shared between sporting facilities and dog owners within South Australia, and located a number of similar instances throughout the Adelaide Metropolitan area, and in particular at a site known as Price Memorial Oval in Hawthorn.

Conclusion

Feedback was received from the Mannum Football Club, Mannum Cricket Club, Mannum Progress Association and the Mannum Show Society in response to the letter sent to them, with all four organisations being against the proposal.

A good response was received from the letter drop and web site request for feedback, with a total of 20 letters and emails received from members of the public. 15 of these respondents were against the proposal identifying that Council should continue to ensure dogs were not permitted on the oval and to remain as it currently exists, with 5 respondents supporting the proposal. The information placed on Facebook reached 1970 people with a total of 7 comments being received. Of the 7 received, all were against the proposal to allow dogs on the oval and off their leash.

Copies of all feedback received via email and letters including suggestions and reasons for their decisions have been attached to this report (refer Appendix H.2) for the Committee Members consideration.

One common suggestion from many of those providing feedback was that Council consider expanding the existing dog park to make it a larger area providing additional room for larger dogs to run. Despite this, Council’s Chief Executive Officer believes this would still not provide sufficient area to exercise dogs.

Refer Appendix H.1.

Refer Appendix H.2.
H. Proposed Off Leash Area for Dogs on Mannum Oval cont’d

References

Community Plan
Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment
Facilitate an active partnership between Council and Community to:
Theme 1.6 – Develop and implement an Open Space Strategy that balances the needs of residents and transient population.

Theme 2: Community Wellbeing
Facilitate an active partnership between Council, key Agencies (regional development, health services and employment and training services) to encourage ‘game changing’ activities:
Theme 2.8 – Strategically prioritise opportunities for community engagement, connection and participation.

Budget
There are no budget implications directly related to this report, however Council has incurred costs associated with the public consultation process.

Legislation
Dog and Cat Management Act 1995
Local Government Act 1999
Mid Murray Council By-law 4 2010, Clause 2.30.3)

Recommendation
Moved __________________ Seconded __________________
that it be recommended to Council that Council consult with dog owners that use the oval regarding the feedback received and possible options and a report be submitted to the next Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee.
I. Memorials and Cemeteries Policy

Reporting Officer
Jake McVicar

Position
Acting Manager – Development Services

Report Purpose

To seek the endorsement of the Committee on the attached Memorials and Cemeteries Policy. This will assist with future management of cemeteries and when considering requests from community members to install a memorial on Council reserves.

Introduction/Background

At the March 2017 Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee were asked to consider developing a draft Memorials and Cemeteries Policy following a number of requests from members of the public to have benches, plaques etc. placed on Council reserves. The Committee were presented an example policy, taken from Alexandrina Council, to consider.

The following resolution was adopted:

*Mayor Burgess moved that it be recommended to Council that:*

1. *that the report titled Draft Memorials and Cemeteries Policy be received, noted and any further feedback from the committee be presented to the Manager of Development Services no later than 7 of April 2017.*
2. *That the community members who made the requests for memorial benches be contacted and advised of the progress and process required to be undertaken by council prior to their requests being answered.*
3. *that draft Memorials & Cemeteries Policy and Procedure documents be presented to Council, for endorsement for public consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999.*

*Seconded Cr Sakko.*

CARRIED.

Discussion

Mid Murray Council currently does not have a Cemeteries and Memorials Policy and as such, it was resolved to develop such a policy. It is considered that the Alexandrina example is a desirable model given its succinct nature, inclusion of cemeteries and its ease of administration.

The proposed model identifies ‘memorial bricks’ as the only form of memorial option that it supports. This is considered to provide clear direction to the community and staff in terms of what Council is willing to accept and support, whilst providing a manageable piece of infrastructure which requires minimal ongoing maintenance or costs.

It is recommended, much like Alexandrina Council has, that Council identify a number of key sites in different districts in which memorials will be placed. These sites have been included for consideration within the Policy.
I. **Memorials and Cemeteries Policy cont’d**

Overall, this will reduce the pressure on Council resources in administering requests, managing the installation of the memorial bricks and maintenance of the infrastructure. It will also provide clear direction to the community on which places are preferred memorials. When sites are selected key considerations should be made to:

- The competing nature of land uses on the site
- The popularity of the space for reflective, low energy type topics
- The spread of memorial sites amongst a community (Mannum may have more than Cambrai for example).

Council should also ensure that the policy does not restrict future memorial requests and therefore provide applicants with the ability to make requests which do not fit the criteria. Decision on these types of requests would be made on their merits by Council rather than delegated to an officer of Council (Director).

A copy of the draft Memorials and Cemeteries Policy is attached in Appendix I.

Refer Appendix I.

**References**

**Community Plan**

**Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment**
Facilitate an active partnership between Council and Community to:

Theme 1.6 – Develop and implement an Open Space Strategy that balances the needs of residents and transient population.

Theme 1.8 – Advocate, protect and enhance the River Murray Corridor.

**Theme 2: Community Wellbeing**
Facilitate an active partnership between Council, key Agencies (regional development, health services and employment and training services) to encourage ‘game changing’ activities:

Theme 2.7 – Ensure that our Asset Development Plans encourage the development and maintenance of contemporary multi-purpose leisure and recreation facilities to encourage an active community.

**Budget**

There are no budget implications directly related to this report.

**Legislation**

Local Government Act 1999, Burial & Cremation Act 2013 and Burial & Cremation Regulations 2014
I. Memorials and Cemeteries Policy cont’d

Recommendation
Moved __________________ Seconded __________________
that it be recommended to Council that

(4) The report titled Draft Memorials and Cemeteries Policy be received;

(5) Subject to minor amendments as deemed necessary by the Manager – Governance and/or Manager – Development Services the draft Memorials & Cemeteries Policy be noted and tabled at a future Council meeting for endorsement as being suitable for public consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, subject to; and

(6) The community members who made the requests for memorial benches be contacted and advised of the progress and process required to be undertaken by Council prior to their requests being answered.
J. Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan Implementation Update (Work Plan)

**Reporting Officer**  
Joel Taggart  
**Position**  
Acting Director – Development & Environmental Services

**Report Purpose**

To provide the Committee and Council an overview of the development of various open space related projects proposed to occur within the Mid Murray Council area in the next 10 years. In the main, most of these projects are linked to the Mid Murray Council Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan (the Plan). This particular report focusses on allowing Elected Members to consider and comment on both the projects and their timing.

**Discussion**

Following adoption of the Mid Murray Council Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan by Council earlier this year, Council staff have developed a Work Plan, which is an internal working document that assists staff in planning the delivery of projects proposed/identified in the Open Space Plan.

**The Work Plan**

The Work Plan itself is an excel spreadsheet which details the various Open Space projects proposed across the Council area over the next 10 years. Various attributes and details for each project are listed in the spreadsheet. The document is intended to be a ‘living’ document, which will be updated as budgetary constraints allow and also in response to changed needs and desires of the community.

It should be noted that through endorsing the Work Plan, Council is merely endorsing the concept, and is not being held to deliver projects at certain times. Whilst the Work Plan will have linkages to Council’s Long Term Financial Plan, costings contained in the LTFP will only be indicative, and subject to further review/confirmation.

The Work Plan can be found in Appendix J.

Refer Appendix J.

**Current Projects**

Current projects that are contained within the Work Plan and that are either already underway, or in the advanced planning stages, include:

- Works on the Stage 1 implementation of the Mary Ann Reserve Master Plan
- Minor upgrades to the Truro Toilet and Parking Bay area
- Implementation of the Morgan Riverfront Master Plan
- Upgrades to Len White Reserve, Swan Reach
- Morgan Caravan Park upgrades.
J. Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan Implementation Update (Work Plan) cont’d

Future Projects

A sample of some proposed to occur in the future include, but are by no means limited to:

- Improvements to the Morgan Sporting Complex
- Amenity improvements to the Morgan Institute and surrounds
- Upgrades to the Mannum Leisure Centre
- Improvements to the Cadell Recreation Area (netball courts and toilet etc.)
- Collier Park, Palmer upgrades (building and new play spaces)
- Improvements and upgrades and Greenways Landing
- Improved amenities at Len Batten Reserve (Walker Flat).

This Work Plan will be integrated with the Long Term Financial Plan in coming months. This will ensure that all the proposed Open Space projects are adequately factored into Council’s forward budgeting and are programmed in an orderly fashion. Many of the proposed projects are subject to external funding, and thus this will require some flexibility both in terms of the scope and timing of each project.

Recent Prize

On Friday 17 November 2017, Council staff attended the Planning Institute of Australia’s annual SA Divisional Awards of Excellent presentation. This event was held at the Pullman Hotel in Adelaide, and was attended by over 200 planning professionals from across both the public and private sectors. Mid Murray Council won the award in the ‘Public Engagement and Community Engagement’ category for our Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan.

A citation from the Award Judges was as follows:

*This project shows a comprehensive understanding of how empowering communities and Council staff can strengthen community outcomes, the public realm and open space for a rural area.*

*The community engagement process was particularly innovative which as the project team partnered with local groups to host community consultation sessions, resulting in increased interest and participation. The project documentation clearly outlined the planning response to each key community aspiration which then directly influenced the works plan for implementation.*

*Mid Murray Council has not only helped deliver community well-being benefits, it has also established new and improved relationships with community groups, facilitating direct and meaningful community participation in a range of Council open space and public realm projects.*

Of even greater surprise to the project team, was that the project received the only Commendation awarded by the Minister of Planning, the Hon John Rau, in the ‘Planning Minister’s Award’ category. Mr Rau stated that this project demonstrated the opportunity to increase the liveability, economic activity and profile of a region through improvements to open space and public realm.
J. **Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan Implementation Update**  
(Work Plan) cont’d

Overall, both these awards highlight the innovative work undertaken by the Project Team (Joel Taggart, Melissa Marschall, Jake McVicar, Amy Loechel, Aimee Linkee, Peter Graves), as well as the final document (including the Mary Ann Reserve Master Plan) which the Project Team collaborated with Suter Planners and WAX Design on.

**Feedback**

Council staff are happy to consider ongoing Elected Member feedback on the proposed projects and their timing. Elected Members are welcome to raise comments in Committee and Council meetings about the Work Plan. Although the Work Plan has now been finalised, it will be a ‘living’ document which will change from year to year (largely due to funding constraints). Council will soon begin consulting directly with individual communities about the proposed projects and their timing. Given the broad scope of the projects and their future delivery dates, firm costings are not able to be provided at this time.

**References**

**Community Plan**

**Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment**

Facilitate an active partnership between Council and Community to:

Theme 1.6 – Develop and implement an Open Space Strategy that balances the needs of residents and transient population.

**Theme 2: Community Wellbeing**

Facilitate an active partnership between Council, key Agencies (regional development, health services and employment and training services) to encourage ‘game changing’ activities:

Theme 2.8 – Strategically prioritise opportunities for community engagement, connection and participation.

**Budget**

There are no budget implications related to this report, given that each individual project will be subject to its own budget allocation.

**Legislation**


**Recommendation**

Moved __________________ Seconded __________________

that it be recommended to Council that it endorse the Mid Murray Council’s Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan ‘Work Plan’.

Joel Taggart

**Acting Director - Development & Environmental Services**