

2 April 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE FOR SHACK AREAS

Improved household waste collection services will be rolled out across popular holiday spots in the upper Mid Murray Council next month, an extension of the existing rural individual waste bin collection service.

After extensive consultation and monitoring, these changes to the general household waste collection service will be fully implemented in the Council's northern area on 15 April 2019 - ahead of the busy Easter, Anzac Day and school holiday period.

Council introduced a trial of rural individual waste bin collection in the Council's southern area in 2016. Following the success of this trial, the service became permanent in Oct 2017. The same service was then successfully introduced for rural residential properties in the Council's north in May 2018.

Mid Murray Council Director of Infrastructure and Field Services David Hassett said what this means for most residents now is that eligible shack properties and holiday homes will receive a 240 litre mobile garbage bin and weekly household waste collection.

Mr Hassett reiterated that Council has however, recognised the differing needs of shack owners and holiday home communities in the Council's north, and as such has provided an alternative way for some to better manage household waste.

"At the request of respective shack associations, a number of holiday home areas were initially excluded from the individual waste bin collection service. Some have resolved to be serviced by bin banks located on private land which are controlled by their association. In these situations, the bin bank system is working well," Mr Hassett says.

"After extensive investigation by both the Council and our waste collection contractor, it's clear that bin banks on public land are not working.

"Up until now, public bin banks have been targeted for illegal dumping and dramatic overuse during the warmer peak periods in the popular riverside communities, and this new system will vastly improve that.

"The overuse and illegal dumping we've experienced has resulted in significant costs to Council and the community in terms of clean up, plus it creates significant environmental and public health risks."

The remaining holiday home areas who have been reliant on the public bin bank system will see an individual waste bin collection service implemented and all bin banks will be removed from public land and council road reserves, remediating the sites and removing signage.

"These changes will better manage household waste during peak times to deliver a more efficient service for both residents and holidaymakers, while also protecting the amenity of the holiday home and shack areas – and importantly, protecting our Murray River environment," Mr Hassett says.

"During the recent school holidays, Council even completely waived fees for general (household) waste disposal at our 10 transfer stations, plus scheduled extra collections for holiday home areas and bin banks. However, the dumping of extensive residential waste and bin bank misuse was still evident," Mr Hassett says.

“Both the Council’s waste contractor and Council staff were called in on several occasions to remove the extra rubbish, along with illegally-dumped hard waste,” Mr Hassett says.

Property owners in the holiday home and shack areas will receive further information in coming weeks. In the meantime, anyone wishing to know more can contact Council’s Waste Management Coordinator on (08) 8564 6020.

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