



# Mid Murray Council NEWSLETTER

**AUGUST  
2006**

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## STRATEGIC PLAN SETS GOALS FOR MID MURRAY'S FUTURE

At the July Council Meeting, the 2006/2011 Strategic Plan was endorsed and the Elected Members were delighted with the level of community participation in the consultation process.

Consultation was undertaken via various avenues, one being the district-wide distribution to all ratepayers and residents of a brochure outlining the Goals and Objectives contained in the Draft Strategic Plan.

Community meetings were held in Adelaide, Morgan, Truro, Swan Reach and Mannum. Ninety (90) people attended and one hundred and sixty five (165) people completed a feedback sheet.

There was an overwhelming expression of support for the general directions contained in the Draft Strategic Plan. Over two-thirds of all respondents thought that the Plan's vision reflected their desires for the future of the Council area well or very well.

The Plan outlines Council's Mission:-

We will be:

- Proactive in planning for and facilitating business and industry investment and economic growth;
- Committed to the protection of our natural and built environment;
- Open and inclusive in

encouraging community involvement and partnership in Council plans and policies;

- Advocates for and providers of services and facilities that support community wellbeing;
- An efficient and responsible manager of Council assets, infrastructure and resources in partnership with the community;
- A professional organisation that attracts and retains high quality staff and Elected Members.

The full document can be obtained from Council Offices and on Council's website.

### ***A Message from the Mayor***

*It is so pleasing to know that the Strategic Plan Council prepared has received such positive reactions.*

*One could easily sit back and think 'there's a job well done' however the real work is just starting.*

*By setting the budget, Council can direct resources towards meeting the goals set out in the Plan and therefore meeting the aspirations and needs of our community.*

*The Vision for our district is:-*

*"We celebrate our rich and diverse country lifestyle built on a strong economy, a vibrant community and family spirit and the ongoing protection of the River Murray and our precious natural and built heritage."*

*By keeping this uppermost in our minds, I believe this Council will continue to successfully strive for the benefit of all ratepayers.*

IAN MANN OAM  
MAYOR



### **NOT HAPPY WITH YOUR VALUATION?**

**See Page 3 for details on how you can lodge an objection with the Valuer-General.**

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

**MAYOR** Ian R Mann OAM (08) 8569 1646

**Deputy Mayor** John T Lindner  
(08) 8540 2281

### RANDELL WARD

Cr Christine Smith-Rowe (08) 8569 2086  
Cr Brian J Taylor (08) 8569 1239  
Cr Peter R Smith OAM (08) 8569 2086

### RIVER SOUTH WARD

Cr Michael J Kluge (08) 8531 0568  
Cr Dave Burgess (08) 8570 8320

### STURT WARD

Cr Roger M Lillecrapp (08) 8564 1081  
Cr Allan J Rothe (08) 8564 5106

### RIVER NORTH WARD

Cr Heather E Knipe (08) 8540 3369  
Cr Allen J Nickolls 0400 741 779  
Cr John T Lindner (08) 8540 2281

### REEDY CREEK WARD

Cr David T Townsend (08) 8569 1061

## RATE CAP REBATE REPEATED

A rebate will again be provided by Council to reduce the impact on ratepayers whose general rates have increased significantly this year. The rebate reduces rates so as to limit the increase to 10%.

The rebate is not available if:-

- Building improvements have been made to the property; or
- There has been a change of land use of the property; or
- The land upon which the property is situated has been rezoned; or
- Ownership of the property has changed since 1 July 2005.

Ratepayers can apply for the Rate Cap Rebate by completing the form included with your rates account and returning it to Council by 31 March 2007.

## 2006/07 BUDGET

The figures in brackets are a percentage of the total.

### **INCOME \$16,461,704**

**Rates \$6,854,418 (44.0%)** – includes income received from rates (including effluent \$652,612) and fines on rates

**Grants, Subsidies and Capital Contributions – \$4,845,896 (24.4%)** comprises income received from Government Grants, and Capital Contributions towards Effluent Drainage Schemes

**Fees, Charges & Reimbursements—\$1,257,958 (8.4%)** – includes income received from Rents, Hire Fees, Private Works, Building and Planning fees

**Loan Income \$1,670,000 (3.1%)** – New loan borrowings

**Transfers from Reserves and Others \$1,833,432 (20.1%)** – includes Transfers from Reserves Accounts (\$531,184), Private Works Income, Interest Received, Mannum Caravan Park Income

### **EXPENDITURE \$16,460,898**

**Administration & Governance \$2,218,728 (13.43%)** – Information Technology, Public Liability Insurance, General Administration and Council Members Expenses

**Public Order, Health & Safety, Welfare Services \$550,552 (3.63%)** – Health Services, Emergency Services, Dog Control, Aged Care & Youth Services

**Housing & Community Amenities \$4,612,975 (30.14%)** – Street Lighting, Public Conveniences, Sanitation and Garbage, Effluent Drainage Schemes

**Recreation and Culture \$1,040,745 (6.38%)** – Libraries, Parks and Gardens, Maintenance of Ovals  
**Roads, Traffic, Footways & Drainage – \$4,423,707 (24.71%)** Construction and maintenance of Council's road infrastructure

**Plant and Vehicle Purchases \$923,475 (5.34%)** – Purchase of excavator, two trucks, two semi-side tipping trailers, replacement motor vehicles and minor plant

**Debt Servicing \$934,868 (5.68%)** – Loan Repayments

**Transfers to Reserves, Tourism & Other \$1,755,848 (10.69%)** – Mannum Caravan Park Expenditure and Development, Tourism, Depot Upgrades, Building Control and Reserve Account Transfers

Copies of the complete budget as well as minutes of Council budget meetings are available for inspection at any of the Council offices, at no cost, during normal office hours.

# Want to query your property valuation?

Council has adopted the valuations made by the Valuer-General and provided to the Council in May 2006.

If a ratepayer is dissatisfied with the valuation made by the Valuer-General then the ratepayer may object to the Valuer-General in writing, within 60 days of receiving the notice of the valuation, explaining the basis for the objection, provided they have not:

- previously received a notice of this valuation under the Local Government Act, in which case the objection period is 60 days from the receipt of the first notice; or

- previously had an objection to the valuation considered by the Valuer-General. The address of the office of the Valuer-General is:

State Valuation Office  
GPO Box 1354  
Adelaide SA 5001

Email: [lsg.objections@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:lsg.objections@saugov.sa.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 653 345

Please note that the Council has no role in this process. It is also important to note that the lodgement of an objection does not change the due date for the payment of rates.

Council encourages ratepayers to pay their rates by the due date irrespective of an objection being lodged, so as to avoid late payment fees.

## DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

Council is continuing the Development Plan Review process following the call for and hearing of submissions. Some 160 submissions were received and are being reviewed.

During the course of the review of submissions, it has become apparent to Council staff that it would be appropriate that the Council firstly consider the preliminary recommendations in terms of what changes to the Development Plan have merit. This is likely to be in the form of a report to the Council.

Once Council has endorsed the draft recommendations, staff will distribute the draft Section 30 Review Report to relevant government agencies to determine whether there is State government support for the recommendations arising from the review.

Once government agency comments have been received, the draft Section 30 Review Report will be amended to reflect agency comments and recommendations. Council will then consider its direction in light of the agency comments and make amendments to the recommendations as appropriate. This will form the Final Section 30 Review Report which is submitted to the Minister and will be made available for inspection by the public.

Assuming that at the August 2006 meeting the Council endorses the revised approach to government agency consultation, it is anticipated that the Final Section 30 Review Report will be available in October-November 2006.

Any subsequent amendment to the Development Plan through the Plan Amendment Report process will require the approval of the Minister and will involve public and agency consultation. Any queries regarding the Review process currently under way should be directed to Council's Senior Planning Officer.

## WHY REGISTER YOUR DOG?

Dog registration is due by 31 August and many residents question the reason why dogs should be registered and does the money go into Council's general revenue?

Mid Murray Council provides services in relation to dogs that the registration fees cover.

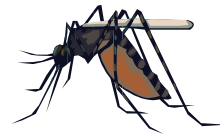
- *Provide an identification process for all dogs which allows lost or injured dogs to be re-united with their owners;*
- *Provide funding for community education, administrative and research expenses of Councils;*
- *Provide an effective communication process to dog owners and the general public;*
- *Provide funding in support of pounds and shelters;*
- *Encourages desexing by being able to provide a system of subsidising registrations for those owners whose dogs are desexed;*
- *Provide proof of ownership;*
- *Support By-Law control;*
- *Provide an efficient and acceptable service to the community*

Legislation determines that all monies collected by Councils from dog registrations are used only for the above-mentioned purposes.

So when you pay your dog registration, be assured the money is being used wisely for the benefit of the community—and man's best friend!



# Have Your Say Council Elections 2006



## FIGHT THE BITE

Key dates for this election are:

**FRIDAY 11 AUGUST 2006 -  
Voters Roll Closes**  
**TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER  
2006 - Nominations to stand  
as a candidate OPEN**  
**TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER  
(12noon) 2006 - Nominations  
to stand as a candidate  
CLOSE**  
**MONDAY 23 - FRIDAY 27  
OCTOBER 2006 - Ballot Packs  
sent to enrolled voters  
(5.00pm) FRIDAY 10  
NOVEMBER 2006 - Voting  
closes (completed ballot  
forms must be lodged and  
received by Electoral Officers)**



To nominate for Council, a person must be on the Council voters roll.

Anyone can stand for election as a Council Member, either Mayor or Councillor, if they are:

- a) an Australian citizen; or have been a member of a Council at any time between 5 May 1997 and 1 January 2000; and are
- b) an elector for the area; or a nominee who is an officer of a body corporate which has its name on the voters roll for the area; or a nominee of a group which has its name on the voters roll for the area (either a member of the group or an officer of a body corporate that is a member of the group).

Although voting in Local Government elections is not compulsory, recent trends indicate that community interest is high. Around 40% of those eligible to vote have taken the opportunity to 'have their say'.

Further information regarding all facets of the election is available from Mid Murray Council and the Local Government Association of South Australia.

We are yet once again nearing another mosquito season and following last years increase in mosquito activity, its imperative for you and your family to protect yourselves against the spread of mosquito borne diseases such as Ross River Virus and Barmah Forest Virus.

Mosquitoes breed mainly during the summer when most people are holidaying or relaxing especially along the River. Mosquitoes can attack day and night and precautions should be taken to protect yourself and your family from them.

Cover up – wear loose fitting clothes  
Use an insect repellent containing DEET on uncovered skin

Make sure all windows and openings on houses/ tents/ caravans are fitted with fine (1mm) insect screen

Cover sleeping areas with mosquito nets.

For more information please contact one of Council's Environmental Health Officers at the Cambrai Office on 8564 6020 or visit Dept of Health's "Fight the Bite" website at: <http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/publications/mozzies-fight-bite.htm>.

## WORKS PROGRAMME FOR 2006/07

Council's Works Programme for this financial year is quite extensive, covering significant road construction and maintenance, footpath construction, stormwater projects and river asset maintenance.

\$300,000 has been allocated to resealing of roads. Council has approximately 780 km of sealed roads in the district, 480 km of which is under the care and control of the State Government and the balance being Council responsibility.

The total length of all roads in Mid Murray Council is 4,880 km giving a healthy average of over 20% sealed. It is essential that these valuable assets are kept in good condition by regular resealing, failure to do this could result in a complete road failure and a total

reconstruction would be necessary.

The Works Construction Gangs will concentrate on a much needed re-sheeting program. In particular, 13 km of Murraylands Road from the sealed Purnong Road to the Walker Flat-Mt Pleasant Road is to be completely re-sheeted. Other roads to be re-sheeted are River Road, just north of Swan Reach, parts of both Jutland Road south of Keyneton and Bower Boundary Road both north and south of Bower.

Smaller Works projects include continuation of paving in Randell Street Mannum and footpath work in Blanchetown, Truro and Swan Reach. Both Morgan and Mannum are to have improvements to the stormwater systems. The Bowhill Wharf will be completely replaced and will be jointly funded by the Recreational Boating Levy and Council.