

MEDIA RELEASE

‘IMAGINE THE FUTURE’ – MID MURRAY COMMUNITY’S CHANCE TO SHAPE NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Mid Murray Council is asking its community to ‘imagine the future of Mid Murray’ and have their say on a plan to guide the district over the next four years.

The Council has developed its *Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2028* and launched a two-month community consultation campaign to ask locals about their vision for their area. It will be used by Council to determine its priorities, projects, services and more into the future.

The draft plan was created by Council following a comprehensive review of its previous plan, *Our Plan 2020-2024*, and input from the community via a survey during 2023.

Focus areas for the *Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2028* fall into five areas including environment, growth, lifestyle, community and business, and include:

- Delivering quality outcomes for the community.
- Delivering efficient and sustainable services that meet the Mid Murray community’s needs.
- Ensuring the Mid Murray community is engaged, supported and connected.
- Providing open spaces and facilities to encourage sport, recreation and active lifestyles.
- Preserving, protecting and enhancing the area’s natural environment and assets.
- Adapting to climate change through sustainable initiatives.
- Encouraging population sustainability and growth.
- Supporting and encouraging economic growth.
- Supporting the district’s tourism sector.

Mid Murray Council Mayor Simone Bailey said the draft strategic plan provides an important foundation for Council’s operations over the next four years.

“Our world is a very different place to the one we lived in at the start of 2020 and we are facing new challenges and opportunities that will impact how Council operates and our community’s priorities,” Mayor Bailey said.

“We could not have predicted then that we would live through a global pandemic, one of the worst floods in recorded history, and skyrocketing inflation and operating costs. All of this does affect our future planning. Our community’s needs, expectations and values are also changing, so we want to ensure that we continue to meet those.

“Over the past six months, our staff and Council have conducted a significant review of Council’s Strategic Plan to identify priorities for Council services, projects and operations. These have also been guided by the input we’ve already had from our community.

“Now we want to hear what the community thinks about these priorities and whether they align with their future vision for our area.”

Consultation is open to the whole community, and there are many ways people can take part. A **community survey** is now open and can be completed online or printed and submitted via email, post or in person to Council offices.

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Community sessions will be held across four locations in the Mid Murray district in February (Morgan, Swan Reach, Mannum and Truro), with an additional session to be held in Adelaide and another online via Zoom. Details of these sessions will be released in coming weeks.

Council will also connect directly with the Mid Murray's children, youth, people living with disabilities and older residents through information and consultation sessions at local schools, and through community organisations, as well as the business community.

"I encourage everyone to read the *Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2028* or come along to a community session to find out more," Mayor Bailey said.

"Getting involved now will ensure that Council hears your thoughts on what areas you think need attention, what your community needs most, and what opportunities you see for Mid Murray to grow and prosper into the future – and these can be incorporated into our Strategic Plan and Action Plan."

Consultation on the *Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2028* is open from 9 January 2024 to 23 February 2024.

For more information, to read the *Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2028* and to access the survey, visit www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/community/public-consultation

Feedback provided during the consultation period will be used to develop a final *Strategic Plan 2024-2028*, which will be presented to Council for adoption in April 2024.

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