

MEDIA RELEASE

WORKS SET TO BEGIN ON FIRST STAGES OF SWAN REACH RIVERFRONT REVITALISATION

Work will begin on delivering the first stages of a significant revitalisation of Swan Reach's popular Len White Reserve as early as September.

Stage 1 and 2 of the project include riverbank reclamation works to improve the riverfront area, and an upgrade of the full existing playground. New asphalt paths will also be installed, connecting the playground to existing paths, along with the construction of two disability accessible carparks and a new toilet facility. Works on these stages are expected to begin in late September with completion anticipated in March 2023.

The Mid Murray Council is delivering the project, with financial support through grants from the Federal Government *Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream* (\$224,970), the Federal Government's *Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2* (\$110,00) and the State Government's *Open Space and Places for People Grant Funding Program* (\$44,310). The new pathways are being provided as links to the *Murray Coorong Trail* under the *Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Fund*.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said the project would enhance the picturesque Swan Reach riverfront and create improved facilities for locals and visitors.

"Council has worked closely with the Swan Reach community to create the concept for these improvements in line with the *Swan Reach Riverfront and Len White Reserve Masterplan*," Mayor Burgess says.

"While there have been some challenges including materials shortages that have delayed the start of these works, and now the impending high flows, we are excited that the project is now in a position for works to begin."

The project will begin with the playground upgrade in September which is estimated to be completed in December. This will then be followed by the remediation works to be undertaken along the riverbank from the jetty to the downstream end of the reserve. Due to the current high river levels it is expected this will take place from February through to March 2023.

"The upgraded playground will create a popular meeting and play space, with new equipment including swings, trampolines, climbing frames, exercise equipment and nature play elements," Mayor Burgess says.

"The addition of connecting paths will make Len White Reserve more accessible, and its connections with the *Murray Coorong Trail* will put it on the map for more visitors to discover."

The construction of replacement toilets at the reserve is expected to start in October, with a three-cubicle facility inclusive of a DDA compliant toilet.

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