

LUCKY 13 FOR MID MURRAY \$1M DROUGHT FUND

Thirteen exciting community projects will go ahead in the Mid Murray, thanks to \$1 million from the Australia Government Drought Communities Fund (DCF).

Taking out more than half of the funding, were three infrastructure projects – including an upgrade to the Cambrai Swimming Pool (\$256,000), Mannum Institute lower floor restoration (\$182,000) and construction of public toilets for Greenways Landing (\$125,000).

Other projects picking up the remaining funding were spread across the district, and included:

- Black Hill swing bridge upgrade (\$65,500)
- Blanchetown Reserve upgrade (\$51,000)
- Cadell Institute roof restoration and ceiling replacement (\$59,500)
- Sedan Park upgrade and history walking trail (\$38,700)
- Keyneton park clubrooms upgrade (\$12,000)
- Cambrai park fence and playground shade sails (\$66,100)
- Palmer nature play area (\$57,500)
- Morgan's Pendle's Tea Room deck and ceiling replacement (\$60,000)
- Cambrai/Sedan Drought Support Dinner Event (\$11,850)
- Tungkillo playground (\$15,000)

Mid Murray Council Mayor Dave Burgess said in the midst of what has been a devastating drought for the district's people and local businesses, these projects would be a shining light for small communities.

"Having local facilities for all ages is an important part of keeping the community strong, connected, vibrant and resilient. Right now, this is exactly what we need," Mayor Burgess says.

"Collectively, these projects will contribute to so many positive and sustainable outcomes for our community, and I'm excited to see them unfold over the coming months.

"While this drought is already impacting local farmers, it will also have flow on effects to small businesses, families, schools, sports clubs, organisations and individuals for years to come. Many of these new and upgraded community facilities mean that peoples lives, away from the stress of the land and making money, can remain positive, supported – and most importantly local.

"In the past where we might have seen communities shrink because of natural disasters, this funding, and these projects collectively will help our communities thrive – now and into the future.

"Whether it's catching up with friends to attend a local show at a community hall, or having a local swimming pool close to home where you can take the kids when you can't afford a holiday – it all makes a difference to the lives of rural people."

Council has already sought costings for the projects and will aim to complete most by the end of this year.

On top of the DCF program, Council will also work with local community groups to help attract more external grant funding for small-scale projects which it believes can support wellbeing outcomes.

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