

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **MID MURRAY TRANSFER STATIONS SHIFT TO SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS**

Changes to the operating hours of Mid Murray Council's Transfer Stations will come into effect on Monday, 2 October.

The changes reflect the declining use of the 10 transfer stations over recent years, and will allow the Mid Murray Council to optimise its operations by redirecting resources to other field services activities such as maintenance activities.

After the rollout of Council's district-wide kerbside bin collection services, visits to the transfer stations have reduced over the past three years to September 2022. Over that time, visitation rates fell from an average 3.5 to 2.6 visits per hour. Council's kerbside bin collection service now covers about 6,200 residential properties, with only about 60 properties requiring a Transfer Station Access Card for waste disposal.

The changes to transfer station operating hours were to be implemented in February 2023, however, this was postponed to allow for the clean-up and recovery process after the River Murray flood event.

Mid Murray Council Mayor Simone Bailey said the changes meant the transfer stations would continue to service their local communities in a sustainable way, while freeing up more of Council's resources to meet other ongoing needs.

"The new operating hours ensure residents in all areas can still access their local transfer station, and that these facilities will run in a more sustainable and efficient way," Mayor Bailey said.

"It will allow Council to shift resources from the transfer stations – where the introduction of the kerbside collection service has led to a significant reduction in visitation – to other areas where we have more demand for staff time, such as field services.

"This is in line with Council's focus on ensuring we're operating in the most cost-effective way possible, and getting the most out of our resources for maximum community benefit.

"These changes were endorsed by Council some time ago after a full review of our waste management services, but their rollout was delayed in order to support our community during the most intensive period of the flood clean up and recovery process. In recent months visitation levels at our transfer station have reduced, and it's now an appropriate time to put these changes in place."

Under the changes, operating hours will be rotated across sites in zones across the Mid Murray district to meet the visitation and seasonal requirements identified in previous years.

Another change is that, in order to meet workplace health and safety requirements, transfer stations will be closed on CFS declared fire ban days.

Council will monitor the new operating hours and review the changes in July 2024 to consider if there has been seasonal fluctuations or spikes in demand.

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For more information and for the new operating hours calendar, visit: <https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/council/latest-news/sustainable-transfer-station-operations>.

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