

MEDIA RELEASE

COMMUNITY INVITED TO HAVE SAY ON CAMBRAI AND MANNUM SWIMMING POOLS

Mid Murray residents are encouraged to have their say on the future operations of the Mannum and Cambrai swimming pools.

Mid Murray Council has reviewed the services offered at the two pools, and the community's use of each facility. This forms part of an ongoing process to review all services and programs throughout the district, as Council works towards improved financial sustainability.

Council has developed a discussion paper outlining different options for the swimming pools and encourages discussion around these and other options. These range from maintaining the status quo, changing/reducing servicing levels, increasing fees and seeking more volunteers to reduce the cost of paid staff.

Importantly, those providing feedback should understand that while Council owns and operates the Cambrai Swimming pool, it has a partnership model with the Department of Education-owned Mannum Swimming pool, whereby Council only operates and staffs it outside of school hours.

Mid Murray Mayor Simone Bailey said Council understands how important these two assets are to the people of Mannum and Cambrai and the surrounding region, specifically the pools' roles in creating a healthy and connected community – this is why it's critical for residents to have their say.

"Our local pools are important to our community for a number of reasons. Not only do they provide a place to cool off in summer, but also for social connections, physical activity and general wellbeing. They are also a critical first step in providing water safety and education for people," Mayor Bailey said.

"However, Council needs to balance this against the cost of providing these services and facilities; and the patronage at both pools."

In 2022/23, the cost to operate the pools was more than \$110,000, with an income of less than \$4,600. The patronage of both pools has dropped over the past three years (averaging about 2,500 visits per annum).

"We understand the value of these pools to our remote communities, which is why Council has invested significantly into them over many years. This includes upgrades to the Cambrai pool infrastructure, and training more staff and volunteers to support the operations at both sites," Mayor Bailey says.

"It's not as simple as just providing lifeguards, we also need to have people with relevant training and accreditation in managing water quality, operation of plant and equipment, risk management and more.

"Further, we don't want to increase the entry cost to the point where it becomes inaccessible for families, however, given our financial challenges, we need to consider all areas of our business.

"Our priority now is to present our community with the data and options and see what they think. We won't be making any decisions without hearing from the community first."

MEDIA CONTACT:

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Options in the discussion paper include:

- **Option 1:** No change. Operations remain as per the 23/24 season.
- **Option 2:** No change to service levels. Increase entry fees and season passes for both pools to increase revenue.
- **Option 3:** Review staffing and management of both pools, while retaining ownership and maintenance of Cambrai Pool.
- **Option 4:** Review ownership of the Cambrai Pool and staffing at Mannum Pool.

There are a number of variations to these options that could be considered and Council encourages the community to put forward their ideas during the consultation period, with the facilities review seeking to determine which option provides the best outcome for ratepayers and Council.

Public consultation runs from 22 April 2024 to 20 May 2024 and residents and ratepayers across the entire Mid Murray district are strongly encouraged to provide feedback. Once complete, Council will consider all feedback as part of its decision making.

People can have their say through the following engagement opportunities:

- **Community Engagement sessions:** Attend one of the following sessions to speak with staff and provide verbal and written feedback.
 - **Cambrai Council Chambers**
Tuesday 30 April **5.30pm – 6.30pm**
Tuesday 7 May **1.00pm – 2.00pm**
 - **Mannum Senior Citizens Room**
Thursday 2 May **11.30am – 12.30pm**
Tuesday 7 May **6.00pm – 7.00pm**
- **Online survey:** Read the online discussion paper and provide feedback via SurveyMonkey at the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DR275LY>
- **Written or verbal feedback:** Provide written feedback via:
 - Email: community@mid-murray.sa.gov.au
 - Phone: (08) 8569 0100

For more information, or to read the discussion paper and have your say, visit <https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/community/public-consultation>.

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