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MEDIA RELEASE

COWIRRA TO CONNECT TO WASTEWATER SCHEME

Cowirra landowners will soon be able to connect their properties to a Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS) to better manage septic tank effluent following approval of State funding for the Scheme.

Up to 11 other shack communities and four towns across the Mid Murray Council district could also be linked to similar schemes and funding over the next 15 years, after they were identified as priority sites.

This comes as Mid Murray Council has welcomed a subsidy funding agreement with the Local Government Association of SA (LGASA) this month for the \$1.7 million Cowirra project, which will connect 63 allotments to the new scheme.

The Council will contribute approximately \$255,000 to the project initially, with this money likely to be recouped through an annual CWMS maintenance fee, supporting the long term goal to make CWMS systems cost-neutral to Council.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said the funding, provided as part of a 10-year agreement between the State Government and the LGA, was vital in providing the much-needed infrastructure for its Murray River communities.

“This funding brings forward a priority project for Council to benefit Cowirra property owners and reduce environmental risk by improving the management of septic tank effluent,” Mayor Burgess says.

“Once the new scheme is in place, Cowirra locals will also have the opportunity to develop their land – something not possible under the current system.”

A public meeting will be held by the Council on Wednesday 13th February 2019 at 7 pm at the Mannum Senior Citizens Room and information has been sent to affected residents.

Mid Murray Council Director of Development and Environment Jake McVicar and Chief Executive Officer Russell Peate have already held discussions with a number of landholders in Cowirra.

“Planning is underway for the design and construction of the Cowirra scheme, which is a priority for the Council in order to improve environmental risk mitigation for our area,” he says.

“This project will collect, transfer, treat and dispose of septic effluent from over 60 properties safely, ensuring a good environmental outcome for our precious river system.”

The Council is also hopeful that CWMS systems will become a reality for 11 other shack sites over the next 5 years. They include Bond Street, Langs Landing, Murbko, The Peppers, McBeans Pound, Frahns, Forster, Sabaruma, Wombats Rest, Wongulla Lagoon and Cosy Corner, with a total of almost 200 properties.

The towns of Morgan, Blanchetown, Swan Reach and Tungkillo have also been identified as priorities for new schemes, which could benefit up to 800 extra properties and thousands of local people.

The Council will continue to advocate for funding for CWMS schemes for these communities in future rounds of the funding program, and keep the community updated on its progress.

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