

MEDIA RELEASE

MORGAN RIVERFRONT CHANGES TO IMPROVE HOUSEBOAT MOORING ZONE

Changes to houseboat mooring at the Morgan riverfront will encourage visitors to stay longer while also improving river access for other users.

The Mid Murray Council plans to address the houseboat mooring overnight zone and rules along the Morgan riverfront precinct in response to feedback from houseboat hirers, local businesses and private houseboat operators.

Houseboat operators can currently moor overnight (24 hours) immediately upstream of the ferry. Daytime mooring is allowed along the remainder of the riverfront, but houseboat operators must then move to the designated zone if they want to stay overnight.

The Council has received feedback from the community that the existing arrangement is confusing for houseboat operators, the 24-hour stay isn't long enough and that the current position of the houseboat overnight mooring zone presents a risk to users because of its proximity to the Morgan Ferry and a 4 knot marker in the main river channel.

Under the proposed changes, a new overnight mooring site will be established and clearly identified with signage that will allow boats to moor for up to 48 hours.

The proposal will now be released for community comment and Council will also consult with the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure's Marine Operations unit.

Mayor Dave Burgess said the changes sought to strike a balance for all river users.

"The Morgan riverfront is popular not only for houseboat hirers, but also for recreational boaters, day-trip visitors and residents," he says.

"By making these changes and establishing a clear overnight zone for houseboats that extends the stay to 48 hours, we believe we have found the right option that will encourage enjoyment of the riverfront for all users.

"Tourism activity related to houseboat and the Murray River accounts for a significant part of our local economy, and we need to support this along our stretch of the Murray to ensure we remain a destination of choice for people on land, and on the water."

For more information on the houseboat mooring changes visit www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au. Information will also be available at the Council's offices in Morgan, Mannum and Cambrai, and the Morgan Visitor Information Centre. Public consultation runs from 16 October until 8 November.

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