

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **SWAN REACH RIVERFRONT REVITALISATION MOVES A STEP CLOSER**

Improvements to Swan Reach's popular Len White Reserve are moving closer, with plans for a new playground, enhanced riverbank area and new connecting paths set to go out to tender soon, and new toilets to be installed this year.

The Mid Murray Council is progressing plans for the reserve's revitalisation in line with the *Swan Reach Riverfront and Len White Reserve Masterplan*, which was developed following extensive community consultation.

Designs for the riverbank reclamation and jetty removal have received development approval and are included in the tender, along with both stage 1 and 2 of the new playground and access paths to Nildottie Road.

The project will be part-funded by a \$224,970 Federal Government *Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream* grant and \$44,310 from the State Government's *Open Space and Places for People Grant Funding Program*. The new pathways are being provided as links to the *Murray Coorong Trail* under the *Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Fund*.

An extra \$110,000 has been allocated to replace the existing public toilets at Len White Reserve through the Federal Government's *Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2*. The replacement toilet works have already been tendered, and onsite works are expected to begin mid-year, with the project to be complete by the end of August. The new facilities include three cubicles, with one to be a disability access compliant cubicle.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said it was exciting to see the project progress.

"Council staff have been working with the Swan Reach community throughout this project to ensure they remain updated and have input as the plans progress," Mayor Burgess says.

"Now that we've reached this stage after a few years of talking and planning, it's exciting for the community to have these projects to look forward to this year.

"Len White Reserve and the Swan Reach riverfront is a beautiful area that's popular with residents and visitors. These improvements will increase its usability and accessibility, making it even more attractive for people of all ages as a place to explore, play, relax and connect."

The playground will include equipment such as swings, trampolines, climbing frames, exercise equipment and nature play elements, while the new walkways will make it easier for people to connect between the reserve and the Swan Reach town centre.

A concept outlined in the *Swan Reach Riverfront and Len White Reserve Masterplan* for a new pedestrian bridge near the River Reserve Road traffic bridge has been shelved due to its significantly above-estimated cost. Council will instead investigate what other minor investments can be made to create a safe shared space for pedestrians and vehicles in the area.

Funding set aside in the plan for the pedestrian bridge will be invested into other aspects of the masterplan such as completing the playground in full (rather than in stages) and a proposal to replace barbecue shelters in the reserve.

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