

## MEDIA RELEASE

# MID MURRAY WELCOMES NEW ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Representatives of a new Advisory Committee that will become a voice for the Mid Murray's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on local issues have formally been welcomed into their new roles.

The Mid Murray Council's inaugural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee was appointed last month, and a special early Reconciliation Week event was held on Tuesday, 24 May to formally welcome the group.

The body will play a key role in guiding Council in areas of cultural awareness, policy development, increasing representation and creating activities and initiatives to foster reconciliation and raise the significance of Mid Murray's significant cultural heritage.

The committee will also assist Council to implement its first *Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan* – which is currently undergoing review by Reconciliation Australia as one of the final steps in the process towards formal approval.

The members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee are:

- **Robert Agius** - a Ngarrindjeri man and is a Director of the Manunka Aboriginal Corporation, Robert is also a Native Title Claimant for the First Peoples of the River Murray Mallee #2.
- **Ivy Campbell** - a Nganguraku woman and member of the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated Executive Committee, who has cared for and shared the stories of Ngaut Ngaut with the community and worked extensively with the Council and community on heritage preservation, caring for Country and annual NAIDOC Week celebrations.
- **Amy Della-Sale** - a research officer with Jumbunna INCF Research, Amy has experience in heritage, community development and natural resource management. She has also worked as a heritage specialist for the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA) as part of the Ngarrindjeri Yarlurwar-Ruwe Caring as Country program.
- **Ebony Marshall** – a Ngarrindjeri woman and case worker with Aboriginal Family Support Services, and current board member of Moorundi Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service. Ebony is involved with the Murraylands RAW committee, and Murray Bridge High school SASSTA group.
- **Grant Rigney** - a Ngarrindjeri man and chair of Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, Ngarrindjeri Native Title Committee, Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations and Ngarrindjeri Peoples Native Title Compensation Trust. Grant has held many leadership roles within the Ngarrindjeri Nation for over 20 years.
- **Margaret Sumner** - a Ngarrindjeri woman and Community Engagement officer with Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Empowered Communities.
- Mid Murray Mayor **Dave Burgess**
- Mid Murray Councilors **Kirsty MacGregor** and **Deb Brokenshire**.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said the Advisory Committee brings together diverse and experienced cultural voices committed to working together to create better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Mid Murray.

"This is an important and exciting milestone for Council, and we are proud to be working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with such extensive knowledge and experience through this inaugural group," Mayor Burgess says.

### MEDIA CONTACT:

Mid Murray Council Chief Executive Officer Ben Scales  
P: (08) 8569 0100 | E: [postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au](mailto:postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au)

“With their guidance and leadership, we are confident that we can achieve great things for our community as we work towards reconciliation and elevating the voices and priorities of local Traditional Custodians.”

– ENDS –

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