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## MEDIA RELEASE

# HERITAGE LISTING TO PRESERVE MID MURRAY HISTORY

Historic buildings and places in the Mid Murray Council district have been granted an extra level of protection with the approval of changes to the Council's Development Plan.

After many years of research, planning, public consultation and review by the State Planning Commission, the Council's Southern Heritage Places Development Plan Amendment (DPA) has been endorsed by the State Minister for Planning.

A total of 128 Local Heritage Places in the towns of Keyneton, Cambrai, Tungkillo, Palmer and Mannum will now be offered greater protection in the Council's Development Plan.

The changes were formally endorsed by the Parliament's Environment, Resources and Development Committee and gazetted on 16 August 2018.

Mid Murray Council Development and Environmental Services Director Jake McVicar welcomed the Minister's approval of the Local Heritage Place listings.

"This area is rich in local heritage and many of these buildings and places date back to the early years of settlement and the establishment of farming and community life in our district," Mr McVicar says.

"These are significant historical and cultural reminders of our past, which also contribute substantially to the present rural character of the Mid Murray region and add to our future tourism potential."

Among the unique places listed are dry stone walls. Built stone by stone by skilled tradesmen in the mid-1800s, the walls are a special feature of the district's history.

Original farmhouses and homesteads – some complete with historic animal yards and outbuildings such as shearing sheds – have also made the list, along with a shepherd's hut, a former school at Tungkillo dating back to the 1860s, churches, hotels, a bridge and a former police station.

Mr McVicar says the DPA was underpinned by substantial heritage investigations to ensure each individual Local Heritage Place listed had appropriate merit.

"These are the first Local Heritage Places to be listed in our area and the Council underwent a rigorous process to determine them," he says.

"Both the State Planning Commission and the Minister have said they were impressed with the quality of the DPA and the investigations that underpinned the planning changes."

Only three proposed places were removed from the DPA prior to its approval. This followed submissions made by property owners to the State Planning Commission's panel of experts in April 2018.

Owners of Local Heritage Places will face some changes to development processes involving listed buildings, but Mr McVicar has reassured people the restrictions aren't onerous and Council will assist.

"Having a local heritage listing won't mean a place can't be developed, but it may mean development is considered in a slightly different way to ensure the features which make a place historically significant are highlighted and preserved," he says.

The Council is considering ways it can help make the process simpler for heritage property owners, including offering free in-house advice and support from staff in the pre-development application stage. Further, it will also consider the possibility of an incentive scheme, which could offer grants to support appropriate conservation work. Details on this will be provided to the community in the future.

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