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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **CAMBRAI POOL UNDERGOES \$256,000 REVAMP**

The Cambrai Swimming Pool has undergone a major redevelopment that will help build on the local facility's increasing popularity.

The 55-year-old pool has had a \$256,000 upgrade thanks to funding through the Australian Government's Drought and Communities Fund.

The project, overseen by the Mid Murray Council, will help maintain the pool's long-term sustainability and ongoing compliance with the required standards and regulation for public pools.

*State Wide Pool Services* began onsite works in April, which included the replacement of all underground pipework to the 25 metre pool, at a cost of about \$100,000.

Another key upgrade is the refurbishment of the decommissioned toddler pool, which has not been operational for the past two swimming seasons. This was highlighted by the community as a much-needed facility during consultation over the future of the pool. All pipework to the toddler pool has been replaced, along with the installation of a new balance tank, filtering system and retiling of the pool.

Other works to the main pool included the replacement to bandaging of the centre channels in the pool, along with the supply and installation of new plantroom facilities and the installation of a stormwater grate.

The need for substantial upgrades was identified in Council's *Feasibility and Futures Report* in June 2018. The report outlined deficiencies and concepts for practical remediation. The Council has been working to improve the facility since then, with \$15,000 in minor works previously undertaken ahead of the 2018/19 season.

Mayor Dave Burgess said the latest project has significantly enhanced the facility.

"The Cambrai Swimming Pool is a popular place for Cambrai and the surrounding community and the major upgrade will ensure locals can continue to have access to a much-loved facility for many years," he says.

"Learning to swim is an important life skill and teaching it as early as possible is imperative to a child's water safety awareness and confidence, so I'm delighted the toddler pool will again be open to our district's youngest swimmers this summer."

The pool had a 61% increase in membership and casual visits during the last swimming season, up from 1,022 in 2017/18 to 1,650 in 2018/19. In addition, there were a further 851 visits including 471 from Cambrai Area School students, 253 during the Vac Swim program and 127 for private hire.

The surge in usage follows the introduction of extended opening hours, upgrades to the pool and a partnership between the Council and the new *Friends of the Cambrai Pool* community group. The group also raised \$1,500 towards the pool upgrade through 15 evening community barbecue events during the 2018/19 season.

January 2019 was the busiest month for the pool, which recorded 848 visits compared to just 252 in January 2018.

A total of 1,927 visits were made by Cambrai locals, with the pool also proving popular with residents from Sedan (222 visits), Sanderston (83), Mannum (73) and Keyneton (53). Visitors also came from as far away as Adelaide, Sydney and Tasmania.

The pool will reopen to swimmers in December, with the swimming season running through until the end of March 2020.

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