

Newsletter



A Message from the Mayor

Change is a constant in every community, and here within Council it's no different.

We are continually preparing for and responding to change. From floods to financial sustainability reviews, we've handled many transitions in recent years.

Now we are preparing for another change, with the departure of our CEO Ben Scales for a new career challenge in the profit-for-purpose sector. During his time with Council, Ben guided us through the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022/23 River Murray Flood, and an organisation-wide financial sustainability review, amongst other significant achievements. He steered Council and the Mid Murray community through times of change and disruption with strong leadership and expertise that have left us in a stronger position for the future. We thank Ben for seven years of remarkable leadership and support, and wish him well for the future.

The process to find a new CEO has been completed, with Dr Andrew Johnson recently being appointed. We look forward to Andrew commencing on 10 August and we thank the experienced Interim CEO, Andrew Aitken, for filling this leadership position in the meantime.

With the start to the new financial year, Council has already got to work on delivering the priorities within its new Annual Business Plan and Budget. Thank you to those who provided feedback during the public consultation period on the plan. Significant increases in input costs across the board have been a challenge in preparing for the 2026/27 financial year. However, work Council has undertaken over the past two years to improve its financial sustainability and efficiency has placed us in a stronger financial position, allowing us to reduce the planned rate increase in response to the current cost of living pressures affecting our community.

Work is already underway on our key projects for the coming year, which includes the Mid Murray Tourism Precinct Planning Project. Consultation has begun with communities across the Mid Murray to begin creating township masterplans that reinforce local identity and character, while also mapping out opportunities to develop multi-purpose open space and community assets and create tourism experiences grounded in local strengths. Thanks to all who have provided input so far, including at our recent Township Roadshows. I encourage you to sign up to stay informed as the project progresses via Council's Your Say website.

A recent highlight for Council and the Mid Murray community was the official recommissioning of the PS Canally at the Morgan Living River Festival in May. This is a fantastic milestone for the volunteers who have given thousands of hours to restore the historic riverboat. Council is proud to have provided funding and support for this project, and we look forward to seeing visitors and locals alike enjoy cruising our beautiful river aboard the PS Canally for years to come.

In sector news, as we've reported previously, Local Government elections were scheduled to be held in November this year. However, this has now been delayed until April 2027 at the request of the Acting South Australian Electoral Commissioner. If you haven't already done so, now is a great time to check you're enrolled to vote, so that you can have your say in next year's election. Even if you don't live in Mid Murray, you may be eligible to be included on Council's supplementary voters roll, see www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/council/election/enrol. Or alternatively, consider nominating to play a role in the future of the region as an Elected Member. A rewarding role, that can make a real difference to the community that I encourage you to consider.

Simone Bailey, Mayor

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Waste and Recycling Services Review

Help shape the future of waste and recycling services in Mid Murray. 



Mid Murray Council will be continuing its review of roadside waste and recycling services to ensure future collection services are practical, affordable, environmentally responsible and suited to the needs of communities across our district.

Council has been working towards improved roadside waste and recycling services for several years, with strong community support continuing to be received since 2021.

A staged implementation approach has commenced, beginning with Stage 1: a pilot extension of the township two-bin service (waste bin and recycling bin) into Mannum Waters and properties on nearby Mannum township-fringe roads. Following direct engagement with the residential properties stated, Council endorsed the pilot to proceed, with rollout expected to commence in November 2026.

This first stage will allow Council to test the practical delivery of the expanded service before considering future stages. It will also help confirm logistics, communication needs, education support and any service improvements needed before a broader rollout is considered.

The next stages will involve a broader consultation process across the Mid Murray community. This will seek feedback on the possible continued extension of township waste and recycling services to township-fringe areas, opportunities to extend recycling services to rural areas, and whether there is community interest in green waste service options.

Improving recycling access is an important step in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill, making better use of resources, and supporting a cleaner, more sustainable future for our region. Expanding recycling services where practical will help Mid Murray continue to catch up with contemporary waste management expectations and do our part for the environment particularly reducing waste from landfill.

Have your say: Council will share more information about the upcoming survey in the near future, including how residents and ratepayers can provide feedback. The survey will include more detail about possible future service options and will help Council understand community priorities before any further decisions are made.

Open Space

Zadows Landing Boat Ramp Carpark

The Zadows Landing boat ramp carpark remediation works have now been completed. The remediation works were funded by the Community and Recreational Asset Restoration Program (CRARP) following the River Murray flood to remediate impacted areas. Below are some progress images of the works being undertaken:



Open Space continued

Truro Pioneer Park

In line with the Community endorsed proposals regarding the EV Charging Station and additional works, the Truro Pioneer Park Playground facility remains the only outstanding portion of the project.

The equipment selected by the Truro District and Community Association has been ordered and will be delivered in due course. Once the equipment is received installation will be scheduled.

The installation of the swing set has now been completed. Images of the finished works are below:



Australian Government
BUILDING AUSTRALIA

Mid Murray Tourism Precinct Planning Project

Council held seven township roadshow sessions from 18 June 2026 to 4 July 2026, giving community members an opportunity to participate and contribute ideas on key elements of Council's Tourism Precinct Planning Project.

Each two-hour session included a project overview from lead consultant Warwick Keates of Wax Design, supported by information posters and discussion with project team members, Council staff and Elected Members.

Attendees were invited to ask questions, share ideas and provide feedback on key outcomes for Cultural Mapping, Townships, the River Corridor, Mannum Waterfalls and the Dark Sky Experience.

This project is being funded as part of the Australian Government's \$400 million regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP).

Further information on the project can be found on Mid Murray Your Say at <https://engagement.mid-murray.sa.gov.au>.



Renew your pet registration

Dogs and Cats Online (DACO)



Dog owners are reminded that registrations fall due on 1 July each year and all renewals must be paid prior to 31 August each year. Failure to pay the registration fee by this date will result in a \$20.00 late fee per animal and an expiation fine of \$170.00 may be applied.

Cat owners are also reminded that all cats over the age of 3 months must be desexed, microchipped and registered on DACO. There is no fee associated with cat registrations however cat owners are required to check and update their personal details and the details of their cats annually to ensure that they can be quickly reunited if they wander from home.

Should you have any questions or require assistance with registering your dog or cat please contact Council's Animal Management Officers on 8569 0100.



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your inbox.

Having your rate notice
delivered electronically
will make it easier and
more convenient for you
to manage your
payments, save paper,
and reduce waste.

Follow 3 simple steps to
set up EzyBill and receive
your rate notice via email.

Step 1: Go online at
midmurray.ezybill.com.au



Step 2: Create your account



Step 3: Register your property



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