

MEDIA RELEASE

COMMUNITY TO HAVE SAY ON NEXT STEP IN CHANGES TO MID MURRAY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

The Mid Murray community is being asked to have its say on a proposal to retain a three-ward structure, but reduce the number of elected members to eight in addition to the Mayor.

The Mid Murray Council will release for public consultation from 23 June 2021 its preferred option for changes to its composition and structure in the latest step in its Representation Review process for community comment.

This option, to take effect from the November 2022 periodic election, would:

- Continue to divide the district into three wards – Shearer Ward, Eyre Ward and Murray Ward – with changes to the ward boundaries to ensure they comply with the necessary ward quota tolerance limit;
- Reduce the number of ward Councillors from nine to eight;
- Continue to have a Mayor elected by the community at Council-wide elections; and
- Retain the name Mid Murray Council and continue to be a district council.

The Council must change its current representation structure due to an imbalance in the elected member to elector ratios in the Shearer (10.18%) and Eyre Wards (13.89%), with these ratios exceeding the statutory tolerance of $\pm 10\%$.

In selecting its preferred option this month, Council also considered a proposal to abolish wards and opt for seven Elected Members, along with a publicly-elected Mayor. This follows consultation earlier this year, when a *Reputations Options Paper* outlining 14 possible options was presented to the community for comment.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess urged residents and ratepayers to have their say in the latest round of consultation.

“Now is the opportunity for anyone in our community to share their ideas and thoughts on how we can improve the existing representation structure to ensure Council continues to best serve the Mid Murray district into the future,” Mayor Burgess says.

“In choosing this preferred option, we have listened to community feedback that some residents would like to retain the three-ward model to ensure our outlying and smaller communities continue to have local Elected Members on Council as a voice for their area.

“However, others in the community may have a different view and may prefer to see our district unified as one Council without boundaries. Whatever your view, I encourage you to make a submission to ensure the new representation structure for our Council truly represents the wishes of our community.”

Council’s last Representation Review process, held in 2013, reduced the number of wards from five to three, and the number of Councillors from 11 to nine.

To read more about each option visit www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/community/public-consultation.
Consultation opens 23 June 2021 and runs until 15 July 2021.

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