

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **MID MURRAY COUNCIL PREPARES FOR SA'S BORDER OPENING**

The Mid Murray Council is prepared for SA's borders to open to interstate and returning SA travelers this week, with new safety measures coming into effect.

In order to protect the health and safety of staff and the wider Mid Murray community, and to continue to provide essential services for the district, Council has adopted several measures to minimise the risk associated with a possible local COVID-19 outbreak.

These measures include:

- Maintaining public access to all its offices and facilities at present, with visitors required to follow health and safety measures including wearing masks, checking in with the QR code or manual sign-in sheet and observing social distancing as required;
- Encouraging all residents to consider contacting Council's Customer Service staff for non-urgent matters via phone or email, or using Council's website where possible;
- Requesting members of the public do not attend our offices or facilities if they are unwell; and
- Taking several internal steps to increase staff safety and ensure ongoing continuity of services.

Council's COVID-19 Working Group will continue to meet regularly over coming weeks to review these measures, and to consider any changes in advice from SA Health and the SA Government.

While Council's offices are open, people are encouraged to conduct their business online or over the phone where possible to minimise face-to-face contact. Customer Service staff can be contacted via phone on 8569 0100 or email on [postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au](mailto:postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au) for all non-urgent matters.

Mid Murray Council Chief Executive Officer Ben Scales said Council's priority was to ensure the ongoing safety of its staff and the Mid Murray community.

"As SA prepares to open up to interstate travellers, the risk of a local COVID-19 outbreak increases and Council wants to do its bit to protect both our staff and our wider community," Mr Scales says.

"Our new measures aim to reduce face-to-face contact both within our workforce and with the public where we can, to lower the risk of possible infection in the event of an outbreak. At the moment, we're keeping our facilities and offices open, however, we'll be reviewing this approach regularly in coming weeks.

"Council provides a number of critical services to our district – such as our waste collection and wastewater services – so we need to ensure we protect the health and safety of our staff. Our district is also home to many vulnerable residents, and it's important we all do what we can to safeguard their health.

"We encourage anyone who is not yet vaccinated to consider making an appointment or speaking with their GP if they have any concerns. Vaccination is a highly-effective way to minimise the severity of the illness in those who do become unwell."

Council will keep the community updated about any changes via its [website](#), Facebook page and through local media.

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