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MEDIA RELEASE

Community of Bowhill Brought up to Speed with Public WiFi Hotspot

Digital communication is about to get easier in the small community of Bowhill with the announcement that Mid Murray Council will assist in funding a free public WiFi hotspot to cover the town's main amenities.

The hotspot will be installed following a request from the Bowhill Progress Association, to offer the service for both local residents and the many visitors to the small town, on the Murray River.

The hotspot will cover the general store, the boat ramp, the playground and the site of the proposed RV park.

Mid Murray Council CEO Russell Peate says the service will bring the riverside town up to speed with other towns within Council boundaries.

"Council currently operates four community WiFi hotspots in Mannum, Swan Reach, Nildottie and Morgan and it's great to be able to grant this service to Bowhill," he says.

The sites allow the general public to connect to the internet for one free hour of access per day, after the user agrees to the terms and conditions of access.

The population of Bowhill can grow by up to 1,000 per cent during the peak season as holidaymakers flock to the site, and is also a popular accommodation spot for backpackers to base themselves during harvest.

Mr Peate says it is important to be able to offer visitors a convenience which is commonplace at locations across Australia and worldwide.

"The ability to access free internet is a common expectation for many people, particularly those who come from bigger city centres or travel from overseas," he says.

"We live in a highly connected society where communication and internet access in all areas is a given and internet black spots can also have an impact on whether people decide to travel to particular towns and regions."

Mr Peate commended the Bowhill Progress Association for striving to improve services for their small rural community.

“This is a proactive move by the Progress Association and any step towards further connecting our communities is a move that Council supports,” he says.

“Improved digital connectivity is a focus of Council’s [2016-2020 Community Plan](#) and improving internet access for all towns within our boundaries is an important part of this plan.”

The hotspot will be installed in coming months.

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