

27 March 2019

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **MID MURRAY COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW CEO**

Ben Scales, former Chief Executive Officer of Netball South Australia and the Adelaide Thunderbirds, has been appointed as the Mid Murray Council's new CEO and will start in the role on 29 April 2019.

Throughout the recruitment process, Mr Scales demonstrated strong acumen in areas of leadership, strategic thinking and community-based engagement and development. Mayor Dave Burgess believes he will be a valuable asset to the Council and the region.

"Ben will bring with him a fresh set of eyes and experience after working for a long time in executive roles outside of the traditional local government realm," Mayor Burgess says.

"His broad set of skills will mean he can help our Council grow opportunities in to the future, driving a range of economic strategies and taking leadership on creating jobs and bringing people back to live and invest in the Mid Murray.

"Leadership in rural areas can be challenging, especially in the midst of a drought. However, we believe Ben's experience will be integral to helping diversify our economy and create sustainable communities, which continue to offer a great family lifestyle.

"Ben has exceptional leadership skills and the ability to become a mentor for Council's directors and future leaders.

"We understand that appointing a CEO from outside the local government sector is unique for regional Councils, but we're excited to see his fresh approach to some of our local challenges."

Mr Scales is looking forward to the new career challenge and believes he will bring a different perspective to the role.

"I am excited by the opportunity and challenge that a role like this presents and am committed to working hard to drive great outcomes for the community," Mr Scales said.

"I look forward to working with Mayor Burgess, the Elected Members and the executive team to build on the strong foundations and significant outcomes that have been achieved over the past few years.

"Although a different sector, there are a number of synergies between my previous roles and this role and I believe I will bring a fresh perspective and approach as we look to create a model of sustainable prosperity and deliver strong community outcomes.

Mr Scales has a strong affinity with the area, having spent a lot of time along the river over the past 20 years. Now he looks forward to gaining a greater understanding of the region and all it offers.

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Mid Murray Council Mayor Dave Burgess

P: (08) 8569 0100 | E: [postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au](mailto:postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au)

