

MEDIA RELEASE

SWAN REACH RIVERFRONT UPGRADE PROJECT PLANS CONTINUE TO TAKE SHAPE

Plans are progressing to revamp Swan Reach's popular Len White Reserve to create a new play space, enhance the riverbank area and increase the site's usability.

The Mid Murray Council is well into the planning process to guide the future development of the reserve through a \$500,000 revitalisation, part-funded by a \$224,970 Federal Government *Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream* grant and \$44,310 from the State Government's *Open Space and Places for People Grant Funding Program*. Additionally, \$110,000 has been allocated to replace the existing public toilets at Len White Reserve through the Federal Government's *Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2*.

Designs for the riverbank reclamation and playground sections of the project are complete and will be released to tender shortly. Council is also investigating options for the design of a pedestrian bridge from Victoria Street.

The works form various portions of stages 1-4 of the reserve's revitalisation as outlined in Council's *Swan Reach Riverfront and Len White Reserve Masterplan*, which was endorsed last year following extensive community consultation.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said Council continues to work with the Swan Reach community to progress the plans.

"The Swan Reach riverfront is a popular place for many in our community, as well as for visitors who come here to enjoy our relaxed river lifestyle," Mayor Burgess says.

"We want to ensure that any redevelopment that happens there is the right fit for the site and meets the community's needs. Council consulted with the Swan Reach community during the development of the masterplan for that area, and now our staff are working closely with the Swan Reach Progress Association to ensure they have input during the design process.

"This is an exciting project that will enhance the best of the Swan Reach riverfront while also building a tourism destination for visitors of all ages, leading more people to discover the town and boost the local economy."

The works include the construction of a new playground featuring swings, trampolines, climbing frames, exercise equipment and nature play elements, as well as new walkways to link with other parts of the reserve and the town including a new pedestrian bridge, and a safer and more accessible river frontage.

The improvements will also complement the new Swan Reach Deep River Mooring facility that was opened to large river cruise vessels in late 2020, making it easier for passengers on commercial boats to disembark safely and explore the town.

Tenders for the new playground and riverfront improvements are expected to be released by the end of 2021, with works to start on these projects early to mid 2022.

Council will continue working with and updating the community on the Len White Reserve project as it progresses. This will include future public consultation opportunities as they arise.

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CAPTION:

An artist's impression of the new play space concept for Len White Reserve, which forms part of a larger upgrade for the reserve and the Swan Reach riverfront.