

MEDIA RELEASE

RELIEF FOR MID MURRAY RATEPAYERS, BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY LATEST COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Mid Murray Council will continue to offer relief to ratepayers financially affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the recent July lockdown.

Ratepayers financially impacted by the pandemic can apply for a repayment plan with Council for the next rate instalment due 10 September, 2021. If approved, they will have until 10 December 2021 to pay the September amount. All interest and fines will be waived, as long as the repayment plan is honoured.

The Council is offering the assistance under its COVID-19 Extraordinary Relief measures. It follows the recent seven-day lockdown and subsequent restrictions on non-essential businesses in response to the Modbury cluster outbreak.

The Council is also continuing to provide other support measures including:

- Prompt payment to suppliers;
- Offering relief for commercial leaseholders in Council-owned buildings, if requested (as per the Code of Conduct - Commercial Leases); and
- Considering ways to assist community groups undergoing hardship.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said while the State's lockdown was relatively short, it still impacted local businesses and employees.

"While we were fortunate in South Australia that our need for Level 5 restrictions was short-lived, it certainly did impact non-essential businesses, which were forced to close, and their employees, who may have lost income as a result of these closures," Mayor Burgess says.

"Throughout 2020, Council recognised that each period of lockdown and heightened restrictions has a flow-on effect to the business sector and our ratepayers and we have continued to provide extraordinary relief measures.

"It's important that everyone knows we do have assistance measures in place if they are required. If your business or you as a ratepayer are struggling as a result of the last lockdown, get in touch and talk through the options with our staff."

A ratepayer is considered eligible for a rates repayment plan if:

- they became unemployed, underemployed and were receiving a payment from the Government as a result of COVID-19;
- their business has failed or is in hardship and is receiving a payment from the Government as a result of COVID-19; or
- may not qualify for Government assistance but be able to provide reasonable evidence to the Chief Executive Officer of hardship as a result of COVID-19.

For more information visit: <https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/council/latest-news/covid-19-updates>.

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