

MEDIA RELEASE

FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION FEE RELIEF FOR BUSINESSES

Food businesses across the Mid Murray Council district will receive assistance in the form of reduced food inspection costs from 1 July 2022.

The Council this month resolved to remove all standard food inspection fee charges from the beginning of the 2022/23 financial year for a 12-month trial. Under the changes, fees will only be charged for follow-up inspections when these are required.

The move will save businesses \$23 for a nominal risk business, \$90 for a small business and \$226 for a large business.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said waiving the fees for standard inspections was a simple way Council could assist food businesses still recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Food businesses have had over two difficult years of challenges due to restrictions, reductions in operating capacity, lockdown periods and reduced visitor numbers,” Mayor Burgess says.

“While Council remains committed to ensuring high standards of food safety continue, removing the costs for standard inspections ensures this won’t place an added burden on businesses already working hard to recover from a stressful financial period.

“We want to encourage and support our local businesses and we hope this measure, combined with other improvements in the economy such as the steady increase in returning visitor numbers, will assist them to recover quickly.”

There are over 200 food businesses operating in the district, and Council has a list of about 130 due for standard inspections soon.

Councils can choose to set their own inspection fees, up to a maximum of \$131 for small businesses and \$327 for any other businesses. These rates will apply in Mid Murray for follow-up inspections only.

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