

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **COMMUNITY TO HAVE SAY ON PLAN TO INCREASE USE OF MORGAN INSTITUTE**

The Morgan community is being asked to have its say on a proposal to increase the use of the town's historic Institute.

The Mid Murray Council is seeking public feedback on a possible amendment to the Morgan Institute's Community Land Management Plan (CLMP). The change would introduce a clause to allow for the granting of leases, licences or hire agreements - allowing more community groups and organisations to use the facility.

The Institute has been an important part of the Morgan community since it opened in 1910. However, the current management plan is restrictive, making it difficult for groups and organisations to use the space.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said updating the CLMP would assist in increasing community access to the building.

"The Morgan Institute has historically been at the heart of life in this town and Council wants to see that continue," Mayor Burgess says.

"We want to see the space used more often, but that's hard to do under the existing plan. Updating it to allow for the building to be leased or hired will make it more accessible and thereby encourage new users.

"This is an approach that's already working well at several of our other community institutes and halls, such as those in Mannum, Walker Flat and Tungkillo.

"Increased regular use secured via lease arrangements has also been successful at other venues in assisting the Council to secure grant funding for the maintenance and upgrading of those buildings."

Under the concept, any proposed new lease or licence would be released for community consultation and public feedback would be presented to Council prior to its decision-making.

"Many of our local halls and institutes are aging. Offering lease, licence or hire arrangements is an effective way to increase their use while also generating income that can be put back into their ongoing maintenance and long-term upgrades," Mayor Burgess says.

Community consultation on the proposed amendment to the Morgan Institute Community Land Management Plan is now open. To find out more, visit [www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au](http://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au).

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Mid Murray Council Chief Executive Ben Scales

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