

MEDIA RELEASE

MID MURRAY COMMUNITY SHARES VIEWS ON COUNCIL'S ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN, SEPARATE RATE PROPOSAL

The Mid Murray community has shared its views on the Council's *Draft 2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget* and a proposal to introduce a separate rate to cover the purchase of a permanent water allocation for Mannum Waters.

Feedback on both matters was presented to Elected Members at their meeting on 14 June and will now be considered as the Mid Murray Council moves towards making its decisions.

A total of seven submissions were received on the *Draft 2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget* – the key plan that sets out Council's priority programs, projects, capital works and services for the coming financial year – and the *Long-Term Financial Plan 2022/23 – 2031/32*, which guides the district's priorities over the coming decade.

Priorities in the *Draft 2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget* include initiatives to assist in building a strong regional economy, delivering enhanced community facilities and services, building on the Mid Murray's tourism potential and remaining financially sustainable in a challenging global economic environment.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess thanked the community for their feedback, which will inform its decision-making.

"Council is grateful to all residents and ratepayers who took the time to share their views on our plan for the coming financial year," Mayor Burgess says.

"We understand that many in our community are facing increasing costs and financial pressures – and Council is dealing with the same challenges. Council will consider the community's feedback when we finalise the *2022/23 Annual Business Plan and Budget* at our July meeting.

"In the meantime, I want to assure ratepayers that Council has support measures available to those who may be experiencing financial difficulties through our Rates Hardship Policy and postponement of rates option for State Seniors Card holders on their principal place of residence."

Council also received feedback on its proposal to introduce a Mannum Waters Marina Separate Rate to cover the cost of purchasing a permanent entitlement to meet evaporation requirements for the marina. A total of 48 submissions were received, expressing a range of views.

Council staff will now review the feedback and prepare a draft rating policy for Council's consideration at its July meeting.

– ENDS –

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