

15 February 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

New Location for Large Vessel Mooring Facility at Swan Reach as Community Views Sought

Mid Murray Council is engaging in further community consultation around the proposed site of a large vessel mooring facility at Swan Reach, after the old wharf/boat ramp area has been flagged as a potential new location for the significant marine infrastructure project.

The proposal for the facility, which is designed to accommodate large commercial vessels, came after Council was awarded \$402,264 through the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund to improve the infrastructure.

Whilst there is considerable community support for the project, the location has been a subject of ongoing debate and the original location at Len White Reserve was rejected following extensive community feedback.

As the second round of community consultation for the project opens, letters have been sent to residents, business operators, community groups and commercial boat operators to obtain their views about the proposed new location.

Mid Murray Council Director of Infrastructure Greg Hill says Council has taken numerous contributing factors into account before deciding upon the old wharf and boat ramp as a possible new site.

"A number of potential locations for the facility were put forward to Council during the last round of consultation, including the land in front of the Swan Reach Hotel and also the site where the Murray Princess currently berths," he says.

"Council decided on the old wharf/boat ramp site because of its close proximity to the town of Swan Reach and also, because it is close to the site where the Murray Princess currently berths.

"Feedback from large boat operators also indicated there were safety concerns around the hotel site being close to the ferry and the SA Water pump station inlet, and that passenger safety while boarding and departing vessels is a priority for them."

Should commercial vessels decide to pass by the small town of Swan Reach, Mr Hill says the town's tourism prospects would suffer.

"It's important for passengers to be able to depart these vessels and be able to access the town of Swan Reach quickly and easily," he says.

Mr Hill says concept plans for the design of the facility had been updated and the proposed structure will not impede the operation of the boat ramp for recreational boat operators.

The project has received considerable support from the local community and Mr Hill says Council strongly recognised the importance of finding the right location for the facility.

“The large vessel mooring facility is an important piece of marine infrastructure, which will benefit both the community and visitors to our region for many years,” he says.

“Council values the input and opinions of the local community and now it is time for them to have their say on the new site.”

Public consultation will also be done via [Council's Facebook page](#) and interested parties will be able to view the design and make comments on the proposal.

All feedback is to be submitted to Council via email at postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au or via mail, by 28 February 2018.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Mid Murray Council Director of Infrastructure Greg Hill | P: (08) 8569 0100 | E: ghill@mid-murray.sa.gov.au