

26 March 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS FORCE MID MURRAY LIBRARY SERVICE CLOSURES

Library services within the Mid Murray district will close from today (Thursday) after tough new restrictions were announced by the Federal Government on Tuesday to further cut back on public gatherings to stop the spread of COVID-19.

As of 9am on Thursday, 26 March, the five library locations within the Mid Murray Council district will close to the general public, until the Federal Government restrictions are lifted.

Borrowers will be unable to return items on current loan during the shut down, but will not be penalised for this.

The Morgan and Districts Community Hub and the Blanchetown Community Hub – both of which operate library services from their premises – will still be open to the public for essential Council services, and for access to Centrelink services. No library borrowing or returning facilities will be available during this time, however.

The district's school libraries at Mannum, Cambrai and Swan Reach will continue to operate for access by school students and staff only.

All community halls will also be required to close under the latest measures.

Mid Murray Council Chief Executive Officer Ben Scales said the situation was rapidly changing, but Council was responding as quickly as it could to protect the health and wellbeing of the community.

“While libraries in particular are a valuable social hub for so many in our community, we understand the need to safeguard the health of all of our residents, staff and volunteers is critical at this time,” Mr Scales said.

“We are continually receiving the latest advice from the Federal and State Governments and SA Health and implementing these measures for the future wellbeing of our community – especially those who are most vulnerable to this virus.”

Council's COVID-19 senior management team will continue to meet daily over the coming week to assess its other services, facilities and operations.

Regular updates about any changes are being communicated regularly to the Mid Murray community via Council's [website](#), Facebook page and through local media.

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