

MEDIA RELEASE

DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO MORGAN WORKERS' ACCOMMODATION FACILITY

Work will begin on a temporary workers' accommodation facility for up to 176 people in Morgan, after Mid Murray Council's Assessment Panel approved the application for the Downer Group development at its October meeting.

The facility will be established on Lot 7, North West Terrace in Morgan on Crown Land that is under the control of Council, with earthworks starting directly. It will house workers working on ElectraNet's Project EnergyConnect, the South Australia-New South Wales interconnector project for one year, with workers expected to be onsite from February.

Proceeds from Council's lease of the site will be invested back into the Morgan community. In addition to this, to show its support for communities hosting its workers, Downer staff routinely engage in local events and projects. Downer welcomes invitations to its workers housed at the facility to encourage participation in community activities.

The development includes the construction of 176 accommodation rooms in 44 buildings, along with facilities including a kitchen and servery, office and communications building, laundry, gym, wet mess, recreation room and onsite car parking.

A community bike track on the site will be retained and remain open and accessible for community use.

Downer's Commercial Manager, Simon McDonnell, said Downer was pleased to receive approval for the temporary accommodation facility to house the workers supporting the South Australia portion of Project EnergyConnect.

"Downer is proud to be partnering with ElectraNet to deliver this nation building infrastructure project which is set to transform the national energy grid. Relationships are at the heart of everything we do and we thank the Morgan community for their support," said Simon.

Mid Murray Council Chief Executive Officer Ben Scales said the development would create economic benefits for Morgan.

"A development of this scale, and with the number of people it will bring to Morgan, will create exciting opportunities for the town and the region," Mr Scales says.

"While it's a temporary facility, the projected numbers of workers who will be living locally over the next year will provide benefits for businesses both in Morgan and across the Mid Murray district.

"Council is also eager to maximise the positive outcomes for Morgan from this development, and will invest proceeds from the lease of the site back into the community. We'll be talking with the Morgan community in the near future about potential opportunities."

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