MID MURRAY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MID MURRAY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MAIN STREET, CAMBRAI, ON MONDAY, 28 MAY, 2018

PRESENT:
Cr Kevin Myers (Chairperson), Mayor Dave Burgess (arrived at 10.06am), Cr Adriaan Sakko, Cr Jeff Hall, Cr Brian Taylor, Cr Steve Wilkinson, Kay Schmid, Shane McGrath and Helen Griffiths

IN ATTENDANCE:
Russell Peate, Chief Executive Officer
Joel Taggart, Acting Director – Development & Environmental Services
Amy Loechel, Acting Director – Community Services
Jake McVicar, Acting Manager – Development Services
Melissa Marschall, Minute Secretary

COMMENCEMENT AND WELCOME: 10.05 AM
The Chairperson welcomed all members.

APOLOGIES:
Mayor Burgess (for lateness), Cr Mardi Jennings, Sharon Jardine, Heather Caudle, Rocky Warren, Aimee Linke and David Hassett

256/1 Cr Sakko moved that the apologies be received.
Seconded Cr Wilkinson.
CARRIED.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:
Nil.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:
(Page 231 – 26/2/2018)

256/2 Cr Wilkinson moved that the Minutes of the Mid Murray Council Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2018 be taken as read and confirmed.
Seconded Cr Taylor.
CARRIED.
28/5/2018

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT:

See Minute Book pages 259 – 270.

257/1 Cr Hall moved that the report be received. Seconded S McGrath.

CARRIED.

Habitat Stepping Stones – Mid Murray Landcare SA

257/2 Cr Hall moved that the report titled ‘Habitat Stepping Stones – Mid Murray Landcare SA’ be received and noted. Seconded Cr Sakko.

CARRIED.

Mid Murray Landcare SA – Activity Update

257/3 S McGrath moved that the report titled ‘Mid Murray Landcare SA – Activity Update’ be received and noted. Seconded Cr Taylor.

CARRIED.

Noted that promotion via Mid Murray Council Facebook page be discussed with Mid Murray Landcare SA.

Mid Murray On-Ground Works – Mid Murray Landcare SA

257/4 Cr Sakko moved that the report titled ‘Mid Murray On-Ground Works – Mid Murray Landcare SA’ be received and noted. Seconded S McGrath.

CARRIED.

Noted that promotion via Mid Murray Council Facebook page be discussed with Mid Murray Landcare SA.

Murray Coorong Trail

The Acting Director – Community Services advised members that Council has not included the Murray Coorong Trail as a project in the 2018/2019 Annual Business Plan and budget, which means there is no funding for construction of Stage 2 in 2018/19. Planning will continue throughout this period.

257/5 S McGrath moved that the report titled ‘Murray Coorong Trail’ be received and noted. Seconded Cr Sakko.

CARRIED.

Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan Implementation Update (Work Plan)

257/6 Cr Hall moved that the report titled ‘Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan Implementation Update (Work Plan)’ be received and noted. Seconded Cr Wilkinson.

CARRIED.
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT CONT’D:

Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Woodland Bird Monitoring Survey

258/1 S McGrath moved that the report titled ‘Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Woodland Bird Monitoring Survey’ be received and noted.
Seconded Cr Sakko.

CARRIED.

Palmer Nature Playspace

258/2 Mayor Burgess moved that the report titled ‘Palmer Nature Playspace’ be received and noted.
Seconded S McGrath.

CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nil.

NEXT MEETING:

To be held in the Council Chambers, Main Street, Cambrai on Monday, 27 August 2018, commencing at 9.30am.

CLOSURE:

10.25 AM The Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

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CHAIRPERSON

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DATE
A. **Habitat Stepping Stones – Mid Murray Landcare SA**

**Reporting Officer**  
Aimee Linke

**Position**  
Mid Murray Landcare SA Project Manager

**Report Purpose**

To inform the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee on the Habitat Stepping Stones Project.

**Introduction/Background**

Mid Murray Landcare SA is supporting the Habitat Stepping Stones project whose aim is to support and promote biodiversity in backyards.

**Discussion**

The project has had 20 pledges up to February 2018, with a total of 215 elements being pledged with the ratio of pledges being 10.8 elements each. Elements consist of food, water and shelter and include such things as bird baths, nest boxes and specific plants that are beneficial to wildlife. The pledgers have been 75% female and 25% male. 30% of pledgers have been attracted to the program by Council newsletters, 10% by leaflet with rates and notices, 15% by Facebook and 25% by a friend. Refer Appendix A for an updated pledgers sheet.

Refer Appendix A.

**Conclusion**

The project will continue to be promoted throughout the region with the display being moved to Mannum Council Office. Mid Murray Landcare is preparing for the next stage of planting for out the front of the office as a living display. We have also been delivering workshops that help to promote philosophies of the project.

**References**

**Community Plan**

**Theme 1:** The Natural & Built Environment

Facilitate an active partnership between Council and Community to:

**Theme 1.1** – Deliver topical and regular environmental education programs. (Such as reuse/recycle campaigns).

**Theme 1.2** – Design community led solutions to local problems. (Such as erosion of River banks, carp control, water quality).

**Theme 1.3** – Lobby, advocate and promote for improved environmental protection outcomes through implementation of best practice planning policy.
A. **Habitat Stepping Stones – Mid Murray Landcare SA cont’d**

- **Budget**: Included in Council’s draft 2018/19 budget.

**Recommendation**

Moved __________________ Seconded __________________

that the report titled ‘Habitat Stepping Stones – Mid Murray Landcare SA’ be received and noted.
B. **Mid Murray Landcare SA – Activity Update**

**Reporting Officer**  
Joel Taggart

**Position**  
Acting Director – Development & Environmental Services

**Report Purpose**

To provide the Committee and Council an overview of the work being undertaken by Aimee Linke, the Mid Murray Council Landcare Program Manager.

**Discussion**

Attached are three activity updates from Aimee Linke, who is employed by Mid Murray Landcare to manage their various projects within the Council region.

The updates are provided monthly by Ms Linke to Council staff, and these are provided to the Committee and Council on a regular basis for the interest of Elected Members and members of the community. These activity updates highlight the important work undertaken by Mid Murray Landcare on a month by month basis.

Ms Linke will be present at the Committee meeting to discuss any comments on her report further.

Refer Appendix B.

**References**

**Community Plan**

**Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment**  
Facilitate an active partnership between Council and Community to:

Theme 1.6 – Develop and implement an Open Space Strategy that balances the needs of residents and transient population.

**Theme 2: Community Wellbeing**  
Facilitate an active partnership between Council, key Agencies (regional development, health services and employment and training services) to encourage ‘game changing’ activities:

Theme 2.8 – Strategically prioritise opportunities for community engagement, connection and participation.

**Budget**  
There are no budget implications related to this report, given that this project is externally funded, however Council does provide some in kind support to the Mid Murray Landcare.

**Legislation**  

**Recommendation**

Moved __________________ Seconded __________________

that the report titled ‘Mid Murray Landcare SA – Activity Update’ be received and noted.
C. **Mid Murray On-Ground Works – Mid Murray Landcare SA**

**Reporting Officer**  
Aimee Linke

**Position**  
Mid Murray Landcare SA Project Manager

**Report Purpose**

To inform the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee on weed control works implemented on Mid Murray Council nature reserves.

**Introduction/Background**

Mid Murray Landcare SA was funded by SA MDB NRM Board and the Australian Government National Landcare Program for a total of $10,000 (excl. GST) to contribute to landscape scale restorations of native vegetation within the region. Specific sites have been selected in consultation with the Senior Project Officer Ranges to River.

**Discussion**

There have been three reserves in the Mid Murray Council area that have had on ground works implemented. Each site has been visited at least twice by an environmental contractor.

Towitta Springs included control of scattered Gazania, Stemless Thistles, Tobacco, Bridal Creeper and substantial control of Cottonbush. Follow-up work of Cotton-bush, low density Olive control and Paddy Melons.

Kanappa Springs in August 2017 included control of Bridal Creeper, Boxthorns, Pepper trees, Cottonbush, Gazanias, and Artichoke Thistle. Follow-up control of Artichoke Thistle, Silver-leaf Nightshade, Cottonbush. Plus occasional control of Stemless Thistle, Spear Thistle and Wild Tobacco. A female Hooded Robin was observed on site in August 2017, listed as RARE in the Murraylands Region.

Pines Reserve Sanderson had extensive Bridal Creeper control covering, approximately 380 patches, typically located under and within trees and shrubs. Over 100 Boxthorns plants were also treated and 10 Pepper trees.

**Conclusion**

Cotton-bush regeneration is high at Towitta Springs and ongoing control will be necessary. Tobacco plants are spreading in from the adjoining property to the far west. Silver-leaf Nightshade is present on the adjoining property at the NW boundary and Pepper trees, the landholder should be contacted to control or seek permission to control if funding available.

Upstream of Kanappa are Artichoke Thistle and Pepper trees which will continue to impact on the reserve. Adjoining landholder should be contacted to control or seek permission to control if funding available. Monitoring and treatment of any further Pepper trees from burnt stumps will be required. Bridal Creeper follow-up will be required between July and September 2018.

Bridal creeper was prolific at Sanderston Reserve and follow-up control of seedlings will be required between July and September 2018, to ensure the success of this initial control. Further primary control is needed throughout the remainder of the reserve and adjoining roadsides.
C. Mid Murray On-Ground Works – Mid Murray Landcare SA cont’d

References

Community Plan  Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment
Facilitate an active partnership between Council and
Community to:
Theme 1.3 – Lobby, advocate and promote for improved
environmental protection outcomes through
implementation of best practice planning policy.

Budget  No budget impact, funded by Mid Murray Landcare SA.


Recommendation
Moved __________________  Seconded __________________
that the report titled ‘Mid Murray On-Ground Works – Mid Murray Landcare SA’
be received and noted.
D. Murray Coorong Trail

Reporting Officer
Amy Loechel
Position
Acting Director – Community Services

Report Purpose

To update the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee on the progress and future directions for the Murray Coorong Trail.

Introduction/Background

The Murray Coorong Trail is a 450km regional, multipurpose trail spanning from Cadell in the Riverland down to Salt Creek in the Coorong.

Mid Murray Council’s portion of the trail includes 14 stages (approximately 285 kilometres) and is predicted to take up to 20 years to complete, dependent on external funding opportunities.

The regional project is an initiative of three Councils; Mid Murray Council, Rural City of Murray Bridge and Coorong Council. The trail is governed by the Murray Coorong Trail Committee, consisting of representatives from each of the three Councils, members from the local community and representatives from the Tourism industry.

Stage 1 construction has been funded by the Office for Recreation and Sport - Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program for a total of $280,000.

As Committee members would be aware, the Mid Murray Council has worked in partnership with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to upgrade the levee bank at Cowirra. At the time of writing this report on 14 May 2018, a total of 3487 people have been recorded as accessing the levee bank which equates to an average of 36 people per day.

The Mid Murray Council has applied to the Crown Lands Department to take out a license over Allotment A in R1942, Hundred Younghusband, CR 5539/570 in order to run the trail along the levee bank to Bowhill Road, south side of the river. The Crown Lands section of DEW has advised a set of terms and conditions for the use of this land by Council will need to be developed prior to approval.

A meeting was held with Richard Brown, Manager of Infrastructure Operations for the Department for Environment and Water on 10 May 2018 to negotiate terms and conditions for the use of all DEW levee banks contained within the Murray Coorong Trail. The draft terms and conditions are currently being developed and will be presented to the Committee at a later date.

Tree trimming, slashing and spraying has taken place along East Front Road to clear the road verge for the trail. As a result this has widened the sightline for vehicles ensuring safety for both pedestrians and vehicle traffic.

Profiling and rubble compaction is predicted to be completed in June, with further tree trimming, spray sealing and line marking to follow.
D. **Murray Coorong Trail cont’d**

Meetings have been held with Brett Reschke from Mannum Slipway and Moorings and Margaret and Ben Haythorpe, residential property owners located between the Slipway and Haythorpe Reserve, to discuss the detail and timeframes for construction. Both meetings have been positive and support has been shown for the trail from both Brett Reschke and Ben and Margaret Haythorpe.

A stand alone website continues to be developed through the design and print company BizBoost. The website will include options for mapping, a full set of safety standards, relevant interpretative information with the intent of linking local business and tourism and other relevant documentation across the three regions of Mid Murray, Murray Bridge and Coorong districts. A domain name has been registered for the project www.murraycoorongtrail.com.au.

An *Economic Impact Analysis* (gross regional product and jobs) has been completed by EconSearch. The document demonstrates the link between funding sought and the estimated impacts of the construction and operational phases on the regional economy. Refer Appendix D.1.

A *Social Benefit Analysis* has been produced to assess the social impacts during and beyond the construction phase. This demonstrates how the project will affect amenity, community connectedness and inclusion, as well as learning and knowledge creation in the region. It also includes a value for money analysis which demonstrates the return on investment including indicators net present value (NPV), benefit cost ratio and internal rate of return (IRR). Refer Appendix D.2.

Refer Appendix D.1.

Refer Appendix D.2.

**References**

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**Budget**

- $121,037 State Government Grant funding - Office for Recreation and Sport *Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program*.

**Recommendation**

Moved __________________ Seconded __________________

that the report titled ‘Murray Coorong Trail’ be received and noted.
E. **Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan Implementation Update (Work Plan)**

**Reporting Officer** Joel Taggart  
**Position** Acting Director – Development & Environmental Services

**Report Purpose**

To provide an update to the Committee on the progress and implementation of the Mid Murray Council’s Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan. This is a regular item to the Committee to inform them of work that has occurred in respect to this plan since it was last reported on.

**Discussion**

Council staff have continued to actively pursue the implementation of the Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan over the last few months, with the most notable activity being the inclusion of some key projects in the draft 2018/19 Council budget. These proposed projects include:

- Master planning and upgrades to Len White Reserve/Swan Reach Riverfront  
- Mannum Leisure Centre roof replacement and other minor upgrade works  
- Ongoing implementation/on-ground works for the Mary Ann Reserve Master Plan  
- Commencement of master planning and small upgrades and improvements for riverfront reserves at both Bowhill and Blanchetown.

The latest version of the Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan ‘Work Plan’ is contained within Appendix E. In terms of the ‘Work Plan’ itself, several projects have had their scope refined and/or split into stages. Other points of interest for the Committee to consider are:

- Whole of life (lifecycle) costs for each proposed project are being calculated – this includes, where applicable, depreciation, ongoing operational costs and maintenance funding - Council’s Infrastructure Services team are presently working on this project.
- A protocol has been developed where any proposed new projects that are to be added to the list must be presented to this Committee first for their endorsement. It should be noted that another project must first have been completed or a project must drop off the ‘Work Plan’ to ensure that this plan is sustainable moving into the future.
- When staff, an Elected Member or a community member has an idea for something to be added to the ‘Work Plan’, the idea must be first put to Council staff for review/strategic analysis. Jake McVicar will be undertaking the role of co-ordinator of the Open Space Plan in the interim until the Council’s Organisational Review is complete.
- The Work Plan is now linked to the Council’s Long Term Financial Plan, and the ongoing linkages between the two documents will be reviewed by staff shortly.
- There is now much closer involvement of Council’s Finance Department working with the internal Project Working Group. In addition this group is now meeting more regularly to ensure the successful ongoing implementation of the Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan.
E. **Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan Implementation Update (Work Plan) cont’d**

Overall it is considered that the Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan is being implemented smoothly and successfully, and that the ‘Work Plan’ is helping guide this well. The next steps will include improved staff and community consultation about the overall Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan and what it means for each town moving forward. Some of this communication can be linked into Council’s ongoing liaison with each town in respect of the implementation of Council’s Community Plan and the associated District/Town Plans.

Refer Appendix E.

**References**

**Community Plan**

**Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment**
Facilitate an active partnership between Council and Community to:
Theme 1.6 – Develop and implement an Open Space Strategy that balances the needs of residents and transient population.

**Theme 2: Community Wellbeing**
Facilitate an active partnership between Council, key Agencies (regional development, health services and employment and training services) to encourage ‘game changing’ activities:
Theme 2.8 – Strategically prioritise opportunities for community engagement, connection and participation.

**Budget**

There are no budget implications related to this report, given that each individual project will be subject to its own budget allocation.

**Legislation**


**Recommendation**

Moved __________________ Seconded __________________
that the report titled ‘Open Space, Recreation and Public Realm Plan Implementation Update (Work Plan)’ be received and noted.
F. **Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Woodland Bird Monitoring Survey**

**Reporting Officer**  
Aimee Linke  
**Position**  
Mid Murray Landcare SA Project Manager

**Report Purpose**

To inform the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee of a bird survey conducted at Lake Moodie Water Reserve, located between Sedan and Cambrai.

**Introduction/Background**

As part of the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Woodland Bird Monitoring survey there have been 660 surveys conducted at 165 sites from Strathalbyn to Eudunda with 135 birds species recorded. The information collected will help determine the effectiveness of current restoration in the region by providing baseline information.

**Discussion**

Last spring, (October 2017) Lake Moodie was surveyed as part of the Woodland Bird Monitoring Project. The survey method consisted of a half hour observation period covering a 5Ha area documenting all bird species detected by any means (sight, call, observed nest etc.). Each site is visited by three different observers on successive days to control for observer bias and variable conditions. Attached is a copy of the survey results. Refer Appendix F.

Refer Appendix F.

**Conclusion**

There were 51 bird species recorded at Lake Moodie during the survey period including four declining woodland species; Brown Treecreeper, Diamond Firetail, Hooded Robin and Southern Whiteface.

**References**

Community Plan  
Theme 1: The Natural & Built Environment  
Facilitate an active partnership between Council and Community to:  
Theme 1.3 – Lobby, advocate and promote for improved environmental protection outcomes through implementation of best practice planning policy.

**Recommendation**

Moved __________________ Seconded __________________

that the report titled ‘Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Woodland Bird Monitoring Survey’ be received and noted.
G. **Palmer Nature Playspace**

**Reporting Officer**  Amy Loechel  
**Position**  Acting Director – Community Services

**Report Purpose**

To update the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee on the outcome of the April 2018 Council meeting at which point Elected Members:

(a) Formally endorsed the Palmer Collier Park Community Association to develop a Nature Playspace at Collier Park, Palmer; and

(b) Committed to a works schedule which supports a staged approach to assisting the Palmer Collier Park Community Association with the demolition, installation and provision of some materials at very low cost.

**Discussion**

As Committee members would be aware, the Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle Program (OPAL) has supported the Palmer Collier Park Community Association, hereby referred to as PCPCA, to facilitate community consultation, develop a concept design and indicative costings for a Nature Playspace in Palmer.

On 4 April 2018, Council received a letter from the PCPCA requesting formal endorsement and support to construct a Nature Playspace at Collier Park Palmer located just south of the Palmer Gem and Mineral Club. Refer Appendix G.1

Previously, OPAL with the support of Deputy Mayor Kuhn, have assisted the PCPCA to connect with landscape architects, Wax Design to develop a concept for the playspace. Refer Appendix G.2.

As part of the design process, a community consultation session was held with local residents and a further workshop with students from the Palmer Primary School to develop an all inclusive plan.

The community showed full support of the project which has been a vision of the PCPCA for nearly a decade.

In addition, a set of indicative costings were developed in conjunction with Wax Design. Refer Appendix G.3.

Further onsite and office meetings were held with the PCPCA, Council staff and Deputy Mayor Kuhn to develop a feasible works plan for the development of the playspace which clearly outlines the support required from Council and the commitment of the PCPCA. Refer Appendix G.4.

In line with current statistics which show 1 in 3 Mid Murray Children as developmentally vulnerable, according to the Australian Early Development Census, and 1 in 4 South Australian children as overweight or obese, the OPAL Program saw this initiative as a vital project to turn the curve on these statistics.
G. **Palmer Nature Playspace cont’d**

Nature Playspace settings are designed not only to provide a platform for physical activity, but also to stimulate children’s development in a natural, safe and fun environment.

There is currently no other Nature Playspace of this scale in the Mid Murray district and therefore it is suggested this project will be a key, distinctive tourism attraction for the region.

Refer Appendix G.1.

Refer Appendix G.2.

Refer Appendix G.3.

Refer Appendix G.4.

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<th>Budget</th>
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| Legislation     | Nil                                                                                                           |

**Recommendation**

Moved __________________ Seconded __________________

that the report titled ‘Palmer Nature Playspace’ be received and noted.

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Joel Taggart  
**Acting Director - Development & Environmental Services**