

MEDIA RELEASE

MOBILE FOOD VENDOR RULES CHANGE TO ENHANCE MID MURRAY RESERVE EXPERIENCE

Visitors and locals will have additional casual dining options in local reserves following the Mid Murray Council's change in *Mobile Food Vendor Location Rules Policy*, which make it easier for food vans to set up across the district.

The updated rules reduce the existing setback required for mobile food vendors outside of residential areas from 500m to 250m from other 'bricks and mortar' food businesses.

The change makes it easier for mobile food vendors to trade across the Mid Murray district, and opens up access to additional areas such as Purnong and Caurnamont reserves, the Old Blanchetown Oval, Younghusband Reserve, part of Tenbury Hunter Reserve, and Blanchetown's old ferry landing.

Mobile food vendors would still be required to apply for a permit from Council. Food vans would only be permitted to set up 250m or more in a straight line from the entrance of the closest existing food business to the counter/payment area of the mobile food van outside of residential areas.

Mid Murray Council Mayor Simone Bailey said the policy changes would create new opportunities for mobile food vendors, while still protecting the area's brick and mortar eateries.

"Council's priority in reviewing this policy is to strike a fairer balance between protecting the viability of our existing food businesses, and creating more freedom for mobile food vendors to add to the vibrancy of our area by providing new and seasonal attractions," Mayor Bailey said.

"It is critical that we support existing traders who have made the investment and commitment to establish themselves in our towns, creating job opportunities, supporting tourism and contributing to our district's economic growth.

"We see the changes to this policy as encouraging mobile food vendors to add something extra to our towns. There are opportunities, particularly at peak holiday times, to attract people into other areas such as our reserves by attracting mobile vendors who can bring new dining options and a sense of vibrancy into these spaces."

The policy does not apply to ice-cream vans, which are exempt because they usually visit areas for short periods of time.

The changes were made following a petition presented to Council requesting the change, with Council putting the decision out to community consultation.

For more information visit www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au.

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