

# Mid Murray Council Newsletter

February 2024



Mayor Bailey, Cr Barber and CEO, Ben Scales, visiting the completed Murraylands Road Stage 5 upgrade

## A Message from the Mayor

How fortunate we are to live in one of the best places in our State.

Over the past three months our towns and riverfronts have been buzzing with activity as we return to peak holiday season.

It's been heartening to see the huge number of visitors returning to our area to head out on the water, relax and explore everything the Mid Murray has to offer.

What a welcome return to a sense of normality after the very different – and difficult – season we had last year with the flood.

A highlight over the recent months has been the return of some of our community events that were disrupted last year. Seeing everything from the Morgan Christmas Pageant back in action to Sounds by the River at Mary Ann Reserve were milestones that marked our considerable progress in recovery throughout the last 12 months.

Our community has come a long way. Our resilience, connection and optimism has come to the fore, and I know that it will continue to get us through the new year as we tackle the last of the recovery work.

Council's work priorities this year continue to centre on strategic planning and financial sustainability. We have worked hard over the past year to review our operations, and to identify areas of savings and efficiencies. This has included our recent changes to transfer station operations and opening hours, which is freeing up resources for Council to use in higher priority areas.

Council's Strategic Plan underwent a review during 2023, and we are currently in the process of consulting with the community on the draft plan. I strongly encourage you to take the time to read the draft Strategic Plan and have your say. It will set Council's priorities for services, projects, and other initiatives over coming years, so it's important our community has its say on what it believes is most important.

Congratulations to our recent Australia Day Award recipients. It was an honour to recognise these dedicated members of our community for the work they do to benefit the lives of many across the Mid Murray.

Not only do we have an amazing lifestyle, and some of the best natural beauty around – but we also have a generous, supportive community, and that to me is one of our greatest strengths.

*Simone Bailey, Mayor*

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# Projects & Infrastructure update



## Implementation of sustainable Transfer Stations

Implementation of the new Transfer Station operating schedule was effective as of October 2023. To view the new schedule and Transfer Station operating hours, please visit [www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/infrastructure2/waste-management](http://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/infrastructure2/waste-management)

## Len White Reserve

The riverbank reclamation works at Len White Reserve commenced onsite and were completed in time for the new year.



## Murraylands Road - Blanchetown to Morgan upgrade

The Murraylands Road Stage 5 Upgrade is now complete and recently Mayor Bailey, Councillor Barber and CEO, Ben Scales, visited the site to view the completed project which incorporated the road realignment section (see picture on front page).

## Graham Claxton Reserve, Cadell

Site preparation and opening\* of Graeme Claxton Reserve has occurred. Progress photos of replenishment of soft fall in the playground shown below.

*\*open for public access only and not to pre-flood condition*



## Blanchetown Oval upgrade

The Blanchetown Playground upgrade has now been completed. AAM Poultry (Blanchetown) sponsored the purchase of the Flying Fox included within this project as per the wishes of the Blanchetown Primary School students.





## Strategic Plan consultation



Council's Strategic Plan outlines our key strategic goals, objectives and proposed strategies for the coming years. It does not include everything Council does, but it helps us focus on those areas that need attention and to address emerging community needs and trends. It is also a key element in setting the future direction of Mid Murray.

To ensure the interests of the community are taken into consideration as part of its development, Council is currently undertaking community consultation on the Strategic Plan.

Your rates go much further than just picking up waste and fixing roads, and we want to hear what you believe is important for Council to focus on in the future. To be involved in Council's Strategic Plan review, go to [www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/community/public-consultation](http://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/community/public-consultation)

## Farm Fire Units

Farm Fire Units (FFU) play a vital part in assisting the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) respond to bushfires. FFUs can often be the first vehicles on a fire ground, particularly in remote areas, and are likely to know the local landscape which is of great assistance to our firefighters.

The CFS encourages people with a FFU fitted to a registered vehicle or trailer to register as a FFU with the CFS. To learn about the requirements to register as a FFU visit the 'Farm Fire Units' page on the CFS website at <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/business-farms/farm-fire-units/> and read the FFU Handbook.

For further information contact the CFS Region 3 Office on 8532 6800.



## Charge your cars in Morgan and Truro



RAA Charge station at Morgan

Mid Murray Council, working in partnership with the South Australian Government and the Royal Automobile Association of South Australia is proud to host Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in both Morgan and Truro.

The RAA and SA Government are building South Australia's first border-to-border network of EV charging stations - RAA Charge. Construction has already started, with the 140-site network to be completed in 2024.

As the world embraces EV's the need for more options to charge them across the state is evident. RAA Charge, places charging stations in key identified locations to benefit tourism, EV owners, and locals alike.

"The Morgan charging facility is already operational at 17 Railway Terrace, Morgan (adjacent the riverbank precinct)" said Mayor Simone Bailey, "whilst we anticipate the Truro facility at James Street West to come on line shortly."

Anyone interested in using these facilities is encouraged to download the Chargefox app.



## Planning Institute of Australia Awards for Planning Excellence

Congratulations to Council's Planning Department, which, in collaboration with Planning and Land Use Services (PLUS), Department for Trade and Investment, and the River Murray Flood Planning and Building Working Group (consisting of Mid Murray Council (MMC), Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB), Berri Barmera Council, District Council of Loxton Waikerie (DCLW) and Renmark Paringa Council) took out both the Climate Change and Resilience Award, and the President's Award at the Planning Institute of Australia's Awards for Planning Excellence for the River Murray Flood Resilience Code Amendment project.

This was an exceptional result for such a significant and purposeful project for our region.



L-R – Nick Bates (MMC), Tom Victory (PLUS), Jake McVicar (MMC), Sarah Elding (PLUS), Sally Roberts (RCMB), Cheryle Pedler (DCLW), Jordan Hunt (PLUS Consultant)



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### CONTACT DETAILS

#### All Correspondence to -

Mid Murray Council  
PO Box 28, Mannum SA 5238

email: [postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au](mailto:postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au) | website: [www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au](http://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au) | phone: (08) 8569 0100

#### Principal Office/ Administration

49 Adelaide Road, Mannum, SA

#### Development & Community Services

Main Street, Cambrai, SA

#### Morgan & Districts Community Hub

Cnr Fourth & Eighth Street, Morgan, SA