

MEDIA RELEASE

DRAFT ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN AIMS TO IMPROVE MID MURRAY ROAD MAINTENANCE EFFICIENCY

A new approach to managing rural roads will help improve efficiency, reduce costs and ensure roads are safely maintained under a draft plan created by the Mid Murray Council.

The Council is now seeking community feedback on its *Draft Road Management Plan* – which sets the relevant standards and direction for Council in relation to its road management works. It outlines how Council can best maintain, renew and upgrade its roads in a cost-effective way.

The *Draft Road Management Plan* is a new approach for Council, using engineering principles and road use data to estimate surface wear and subsequently better plan for targeted maintenance to extend road life.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said the *Draft Road Management Plan* would allow Council to more effectively and efficiently maintain its extensive rural road network, while also reducing costs and ensuring safe road conditions remain in place for the community.

“With 352km of sealed roads and 2,418km of unsealed roads under our care, Mid Murray has one of the largest road networks of any council. Transport asset maintenance is a continual focus for us – and also an area of significant capital investment,” Mayor Burgess says.

“Council is committed to continually reviewing its operations to find efficiencies and reduce costs, without impacting the standard and quality of our infrastructure for our community.

“The *Draft Road Management Plan* ensures we’re planning for the future maintenance of these roads as efficiently as we can. This is essential with a road network that has a replacement cost of over \$105 million.

“Managed effectively, a program of preventative maintenance works can significantly extend the useful life of our roads while still maintaining quality and safety, potentially saving our community millions by delaying the need for capital replacement works until they are genuinely needed.

“Importantly, this approach also ensures that our roads are maintained in a way that continues safe access and use for our residents and visitors so they can remain connected with school, work, sport, friends and family and our wider community in general.”

The *Draft Road Management Plan* has been released for community feedback. Council is also seeking feedback on its *Draft Transport Assessment Management Plan*, which sits above the *Draft Road Management Plan* and also incorporates Council’s approach to the renewal and enhancement of transport assets.

Consultation runs from Tuesday, 9 August 2022 until 12 noon on Tuesday, 30 August 2022. Find out more about the Draft Transport Asset Management Plan and Road Management Plan, and how to have your say, online at www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au.

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