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MEDIA RELEASE

Mid Murray Council Calls for Action on State Government Compliance Costs

Mid Murray Council leaders will call for a review into a range of compliance requirements which South Australian Councils are subject to from State Government, saying the costs are becoming a “significant burden” for regional Councils.

Council’s Chief Executive Officer Russell Peate says Council is spending an estimated \$1.8 Million, with most of this annually, on compliance measures across a number of areas, including finance, WHS, risk management, governance, community development and environmental services.

“There is a plethora of compliance costs that the Mid Murray Council is subject to from the State Government and the financial burden upon Council is significant,” he says.

“This includes administrative requirements, staff training, signage installation at work sites, permits, and staff time in general across developmental and environmental services.

“For example, it will cost Mid Murray Council an estimated \$286,000 this year to install and remove signage at work zones.”

Given the expected implementation of rate capping in 2020, Mr Peate says all Councils are seeking expenditure reductions wherever possible, to account for an expected downturn in revenue.

“Council believes there are a number of areas where efficiencies could be made and we will be formally asking for measures to be taken to review and decrease the level of compliance for all Councils.”

Mr Peate says a request for a review of compliance costs will be sent to the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association in coming weeks, and local MPs will also receive a copy of the report.

“Councils and particularly smaller regional Councils, cannot continue to bear these statutory costs,” he says.

“It’s important to act now before rate-capping comes into effect and has a major impact on Council revenues.”

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