

14 May 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

LIBRARIES, CAMPGROUNDS, VISITOR CENTRES REOPEN UNDER MID MURRAY COVID-19 RECOVERY

Campgrounds, visitor information hubs, libraries and community halls across the Mid Murray district will reopen from as early as this weekend as the State's COVID-19 restriction measures ease.

The Mid Murray Council has begun working towards reopening some services, in line with the SA Government's Roadmap to Recovery State 1 measures, which came into effect on 11 May.

While Council has been keen to restore local services, a little extra time was needed to ensure facilities could reopen safely to the public without any risks to community health and wellbeing.

The reopening facilities and services include:

- All libraries reopening from 18 May, with the exception of the Swan Reach School/Community Library, which remains closed.
- The Mannum Visitor Information Centre and Morgan Visitor Information Office open for in-person inquiries from Monday, 18 May.
- Community Halls and buildings open from Wednesday, 13 May (conditions on use apply).
- Council campgrounds open from Friday, 15 May (National Parks and Crown land campgrounds are already now open). Bolto Reserve will reopen from Saturday, 16 May, however, Haythorpe Reserve remains closed at this stage. The Towitta Campground pavilion also remains closed, but the campgrounds and toilets will be open.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said the changes were a positive step towards the region's initial recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

"The last two months have been a challenging time for our community and we're excited to be able to begin to offer some return to normality for our residents," Mayor Burgess says.

"This crisis, combined with the recent long-running drought and Cudlee Creek Bushfire, has impacted on our economy, so the opportunity to welcome visitors back to our district is fantastic. Easter and the school holidays are traditionally a very busy time for tourism in our region, and now we're encouraging South Australians who had to postpone their Mid Murray holiday to come back to us for a weekend, or even a longer stay.

"One of the great things about our district is the variety of activities we offer outdoors – camping, fishing, boating, hiking, cycling and stargazing with Australia's best night sky view inside the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve. You can do all this – plus enjoy fantastic local food with our pubs and cafes offering takeaway options – while staying safe and avoiding contact with other people."

In line with the State and Federal Government restrictions that remain in place, some community facilities and programs are still closed until further notice including:

- All of Council's volunteer programs.
- The Morgan Activity Centre, Mannum Dock Museum, and Lanseer Museum, Morgan.
- The Mannum Leisure Centre.

“We thank our community for the incredible work they’ve done to adhere to the restrictions over the past two months,” Mayor Burgess says.

“This has played a huge role in minimising the spread of this virus in our district and puts us in this position so we can begin our recovery. We encourage everyone not to become complacent during these early recovery stages and continue to look out for each other. Observe the remaining restrictions, keep applying social distancing and good personal hygiene and stay positive.”

For more information on the Council’s response to COVID-19 and updates on the reopening of services and facilities, visit www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au.

- ENDS -

MEDIA CONTACT: Mid Murray Council Chief Executive Officer Ben Scales
P: (08) 8569 0100 | E: postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au.