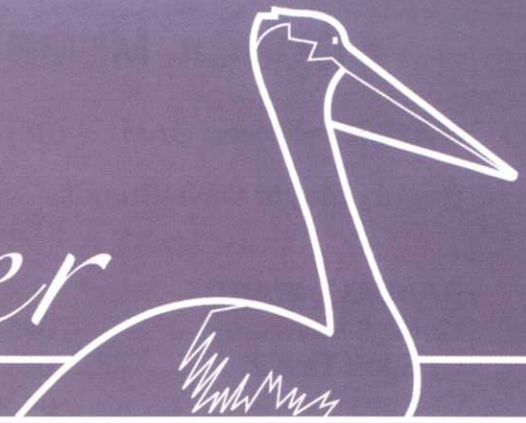


AUGUST 2008

Mid Murray Council

Newsletter

Email: postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au • Web: www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au



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a message from the Mayor

It would be fair to say that Council has had a challenging year in 2007/08. Near drought conditions, restrictions on irrigation and very low river levels below Lock One have had a severe effect on the Mid Murray community. This situation meant that Council needed to divert resources from its road program to try and maintain some strategic boat ramps for use by the community and visitors.

At this point in time river level predictions are unclear but we are hoping for some recovery within the foreseeable future. With Council's own water allocation severely cut we have done our best to maintain our public parks and gardens to attract tourists who are a vital part of the local economy.

The Murraylands Tourism Marketing Board along with SA Tourism have been working hard to promote the fact that there is ample water available for recreational water activity.

The 2008/09 Budget and Annual Business Plan was set after much deliberation and community consultation, producing a program with some capital works and plant replacement, whilst meeting our statutory obligations which have increased due to legislative changes. The district has experienced some uneven valuation changes and some ratepayers will be hit harder than others. My advice is to check and appeal your valuation through the State Valuation Office or avail yourself of the rate cap if you qualify.

Our new waste management contract is working well and Council is investigating various options for recycling as the cost of waste management is increasing at a frightening rate. These options will be put to the community for comment in the near future.

Council is keen to work with the community to fulfill its strategic goals of a strong economy with a vibrant community while preserving our built and natural environment.

Ian R Mann OAM
MAYOR



WORKS PROGRAMME 2008/2009

Council has set its Works Programme for the new financial year; the majority of funds are directed towards maintaining or improving our existing infrastructure.

Road Infrastructure

The construction gangs will be mainly concentrating on the re-sheeting of rural roads, with a target of 35 kilometres programmed for this year. Council has included the following roads to be upgraded to a sealed surface:-

- Dollard Avenue, Mannum
- Lindner Avenue, Palmer
- Cliff View Drive, Wongulla

The re-sealing programme will continue with works that were not completed last year plus another 15 kilometres of roads. This is an essential part of maintaining our most valuable road asset, the sealed road network.

Other Infrastructure

The staged implementation of the Mannum Stormwater Mitigation Plan commences with the Male Road stormwater drainage works. Approval for the relocation of the road at Saunders Creek on Purnong Road has been granted and the works will be completed this year. There are also plans to upgrade the crossing of the Marne River on Pine Hut Road.

Development in Urban areas this year includes:-

- Crawford Crescent Walkway, Mannum
- Truro Streetscape Project
- Footpath construction in Truro, Swan Reach, Mannum and Tungillo
- Stage two of the undergrounding of power in Truro has commenced

Capital Allocation

The Works Department has funds to upgrade plant and machinery and to complete the machinery washdown bay at the Cambrai depot.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

MAYOR Ian Mann OAM (08) 8569 1646

Deputy Mayor Dave Burgess
(08) 8570 8320

RANDELL WARD

Cr Mick Morrissey 0411 632 932
Cr Brian Taylor (08) 8569 1239
Cr Kerry Yeates 0439 877 849

RIVER SOUTH WARD

Cr Dave Burgess (08) 8570 8320
Cr Peter Milsom 0439 189 690

STURT WARD

Cr Inez Bormann 0438 806 112
Cr Ros Schultz 0408 849 043

RIVER NORTH WARD

Cr Kevin Myers 0428 518 994
Cr Ken Sayers (08) 8540 5258
Cr Marie Rudloff 0412 096 888

REEDY CREEK WARD

Cr Jeff Howie (08) 8569 7221

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY ISSUES

Council has endorsed a Development Plan Amendment Programme covering a range of issues including -

- A review of settlement and township boundaries
- A review of minimum development unit policy
- A Heritage review
- A review of the Mannum township
- A Rural Policy's Areas review

A formal Development Plan Amendment process on each issue will commence during 2008/2009.

DISABLED ACCESS INCENTIVE SCHEME

Council last year endorsed a scheme that provides grants of up to \$500 to assist the private sector in improving access for people with disabilities.

The scheme is an example of Council's commitment to its Disability Access Action Plan which endorses the principle of equal access.

Information on the grants can be obtained by contacting Council's Environmental Services Manager, Kelvin Goldstone at the Cambrai office, Phone 8564 6020.

2008/09 BUDGET

The figures in brackets are a percentage of the total.

INCOME \$15,534,838

Rates \$8,070,534 (51.9%) – includes income received from rates (including effluent \$849,922) and fines on rates

Grants, Subsidies and Capital Contributions – \$3,558,837 (22.9%) comprises income received from Government Grants and Capital Contributions towards Effluent Drainage Schemes

Fees, Charges & Reimbursements— \$2,051,036 (13.2%) – includes income received from Rents, Hire Fees, Private Works, Building and Planning fees

Loan Income \$930,198 (6.0%) – New loan borrowings

Transfers from Reserves and Others \$924,233 (6.0%) – includes Transfers from Reserve Accounts, Interest Received, Sale of Plant.

EXPENDITURE \$15,540,851

Administration & Governance \$2,608,269 (16.8%) – Information Technology, Public Liability Insurance, General Administration and Council Members' Expenses

Public Order, Health & Safety, Welfare Services \$609,629 (3.9%) – Health Services, Emergency Services, Dog Control, Aged Care & Youth Services

Housing & Community Amenities \$3,316,480 (21.3%) – Street Lighting, Public Conveniences, Sanitation and Garbage, Effluent Drainage Schemes

Recreation and Culture \$1,016,303 (6.5%) – Libraries, Parks and Gardens, Maintenance of Ovals

Roads, Traffic, Footways & Drainage – \$4,867,385 (31.3%) Construction and maintenance of Council's road infrastructure

Plant and Vehicle Purchases \$878,730 (5.7%) – Purchase of excavator, two trucks, two semi-side tipping trailers, replacement motor vehicles and minor plant

Debt Servicing \$1,159,637 (7.5%) – Loan Repayments

Transfers to Reserves, Tourism & Other \$1,084,418 (7.0%) – Mannum Caravan Park Expenditure and Development, Tourism, Depot Upgrades, Building Control and Reserve Account Transfers.

Copies of the complete budget as well as minutes of Council budget meetings are available for inspection at any of the Council offices, at no cost, during normal office hours.

FREE DUMPING MADE EASIER

As part of Council's programme to assist people in cleaning up their properties, a voucher to allow two 6' x 4' trailer loads or two small utility loads of hard rubbish to be dumped free of charge at the waste depots at Mannum, Cambrai and Morgan is enclosed with this mail out. The voucher can be used on any of the days when the dumps are open. This replaces the two Free Dump Days previously provided.

Hard rubbish includes domestic refuse, hard refuse and garden wastes. Tyres and asbestos will not be accepted. Wastes from contractors will not be accepted.

Proof of eligibility will be required so please present your driver's licence or rates notice to the depot caretaker on the day. The depot caretakers have authority to refuse to accept waste from ineligible persons or wastes that would contravene the Council's waste disposal licence. Only 6' x 4' trailers or small utilities will be accepted.

PET MICROCHIPPING DAY

When: 24 August 2008

Time: 11 am — 3 pm at the Senior Citizens

Clubrooms, 51 Adelaide Road, Mannum

Enquiries: Brett Stapleton 0429 999 641

This is a great opportunity to have your dog or cat microchipped at the discount price of \$30.00 which is less than half the normal cost and this increases the chance of being reunited with your pet if it is lost or stolen. Microchipped dogs are entitled to discounted registration fees if registered within the Mid Murray Council area.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Mannum has been the focus of some major developments. Work has started on the Sanctuary on Mannum retirement village on North Terrace with other allotments available for housing and a site for a residential aged care facility (subject to further approval).

The second stage of the Paddlesteamer residential estate is complete and there is one stage still to go, so the residential land supply in Mannum continues to grow steadily.

The developers of the new shopping centre at the old sawmill site on Adelaide Road have recently lodged the application and it is possible there will be some activity commencing on that site this year.

DOG REGISTRATIONS DUE 31 AUGUST

Council encourages responsible dog ownership and the registration of dogs is a key step to being a responsible dog owner. Registering dogs provides Council with early identification of wandering dogs, and reduces the number of dogs impounded.

Council sends out Dog Registration Renewal Notices every year, as a friendly reminder to residents with registered dogs. As a responsible dog owner, your commitment to your pet makes your neighbourhood a better place to live and Council congratulates you. All payments must be received by the 31 August or an additional late payment fee of \$10.00 will apply.

Any questions in relation to the registration of dogs can be obtained by contacting the Council office or by contacting Council's General Inspector, Brett Stapleton on 0429 999 641.



RATE CAP REBATE REPEATED

A rebate will again be provided by Council to reduce the impact on ratepayers whose general rates have increased significantly this year. The rebate reduces rates so as to limit the increase to 12%.

The rebate is not available if:-

- Building improvements have been made to the property; or
- There has been a change of land use of the property; or
- The land upon which the property is situated has been rezoned; or
- Ownership of the property has changed since 1 July 2007.

Ratepayers can apply for the Rate Cap Rebate by completing the form included with your rates account and returning it to Council by 27 March 2009.

BOAT RAMPS

The low River level below Lock One has created varying problems within those communities. Of particular concern to boat owners was the condition of the boat ramps. Some funding was made available through the SA Boating Facility Advisory Committee which enabled Council to perform works on six ramps to be reasonably operational, however SA Boating Facilities have stated this is a one off grant. With future levels dependant on numerous factors it is becoming increasingly difficult to design the ramps on a cost benefit ratio. Council has applied for funding to upgrade the Swan Reach boat ramp but to date no decision has been made on the application.

KERBSIDE RECYCLING SERVICE INVESTIGATION

The Riverland Waste Management Committee, consisting of four Councils including Mid Murray, has recommended to its members to issue tenders to investigate the viability and affordability of providing kerbside recyclable and kerbside green waste collections.

The Committee's Chairman said that the basis of the recommendation for Councils' consideration was to gain accurate information on the costs of kerbside recyclable and green waste collection services.

The four Councils have been working together on the issue of waste management to comply with targets of the State Strategic Plan and also requirements of bodies such as Zero Waste and the Environment Protection Authority as well as addressing community expectations.

If the member Councils adopt the recommendation, it is envisaged that separate costs will be sought on a range of possible options to allow for either a regionally based service or on a Council by Council basis.

Various issues are being considered such as the size of recycling bins, frequency of collection, properties included in service and the length of contract.

The recommendation does not bind Councils to provide a kerbside recycling service.

MORGAN COUNCIL OFFICE AND LIBRARY



Work has progressed well on the construction of a new building comprising Council office and Library at Morgan. The building will be completed and in use later this year. New public toilets have been built adjacent to this complex.



MID MURRAY COUNCIL

GRANT PROJECTS

Council has been successful in obtaining various grants to undertake a range of projects during 2008/2009, including:-

Sustainable Recreation Reserve Development

Council has received Regional Open Space funding from the State Government to assist with the upgrade and development of three priority sustainable recreation reserves, namely:

Bolto Reserve, Mannum
Haythorpe Reserve, Mannum
Hogwash Bend, Cadell.

Integrated Water Management Plan

Council has received funding from the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board to develop an Integrated Water Management Plan for the Truro township. The Integrated Water Management Plan will focus primarily on stormwater and waste water issues associated with the town and may form the basis of future works.

Pioneer Park, Truro

Council has received Regional Open Space funding to develop a vacant piece of land in the main street of Truro linking it with Heroes Park. The development will eventually incorporate public toilets, pathways, gazebo, seating and general development of the reserve.

Waterless Urinals

To assist in the reduction of water use Council has converted a number of public toilets to waterless urinals made possible through funding from the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board. The waterless technology eliminates the need for flushing.

DIGGING AND EXCAVATION ON RIVER BANKS

Any digging, excavation, backfilling or construction on the banks of the River Murray falls within the definition of development in terms of the Development Act 1993. As such, consent from Council, the Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation is required prior to such work commencing. Any breaches of the Development Act may result in the issue of an Order requiring breaches to be addressed. Failure to comply with the Notice issued may result in fines up to \$8,000.

The Council is fully aware of the effects of the current drought conditions, including low river levels and has developed an accelerated process for irrigators who need approval to carry out trenching and dredging works to access water or pumps and pipelines on the River Murray.