



Our Council and the Mid Murray community are facing challenging times. Over the past 15 months, we have weathered drought, bushfire and the COVID-19 global pandemic.

We recognise that the 2020/21 year will be one of rebuilding for many in our community and business sector as they recover from the economic impact of these crises.

Economic growth will be essential in supporting the recovery of our district and Council has a key role to play in assisting this, particularly through the tourism sector. We will continue our work with our local business community to support them through this time. To further stimulate our economy, we remain committed to renewing existing assets and pursuing funding opportunities from the State and Federal Governments to assist in delivery of priority projects and events for our community.

In response to the economic challenges facing our region - and balancing the need to continue to work towards financial sustainability - Council has budgeted for an increase in rates for the 2020/21 financial year that balances both of these objectives. We will also continue to offer assistance to affected ratepayers through our hardship support measures.

This leads us into our 2020/21 Annual Business Plan and Budget, which you will find a summary enclosed with the rates notice and newsletter. I thank the community for providing comment during our public consultation period. Your feedback is valued and helps shape the direction of the Council's budget.

Some of our key initiatives for the coming year include:

- Murray Coorong Trail – Mannum to Kia Marina and Swan Reach to Nildottie
- \$1M of drought funding projects
- Progression of the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve
- Delivery of Stage 1 of the Swan Reach Master Plan
- Road sheeting in fire affected zone including Gladigau, Herrmanns, Harrogate and Pym Roads
- Stage 4 of Murraylands Road upgrade and Truro Road renewal
- Rating and representation reviews
- Mid Murray Our Town 10-year Mental Health Plan

Please visit our website www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au to view the full 2020/21 Annual Business Plan and Budget and planned projects and services to be undertaken.

One positive for our region has been the good season-breaking rains that hopefully signal relief from the long-running drought and the start of a good year ahead for our agricultural sector. At the time of writing, there is optimism and hopefully this has continued with further rain across the winter months.

As we continue our district's recovery, it's important we all work together to deliver positive outcomes for our whole community.

Defibrillator for Keyneton

Members of the Keyneton Community now have access to a fully automatic defibrillator (AED) should the need arise in the immediate area.

The Keyneton Progress Association, assisted by a Community Projects Grant from the Mid Murray Council, funded and installed the defibrillator at the Keyneton Mail Agency and it is available for emergency use by anyone if needed.

Jenni Evans (left), volunteer Community Gardener and volunteer at the Keyneton Mail Agency with Jenny Johns, Keyneton Progress Association.



Mary Ann Reserve Upgrade Stage 1

Have you seen the Mary Ann Reserve Stage 1 Developments? The new playground installation is well under way! The new safety fencing has been installed and the new playground equipment has been scheduled for completion at the end of July 2020, providing there are no further delays due to COVID-19. The new design also has disability access inclusions in a number of the playground elements so the wider community can enjoy an amazing day by the river with family and friends.



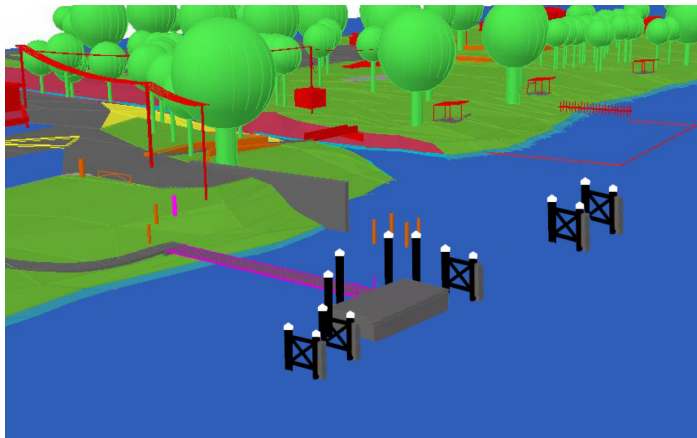
Artist impression of finished installation



Completed fencing installation

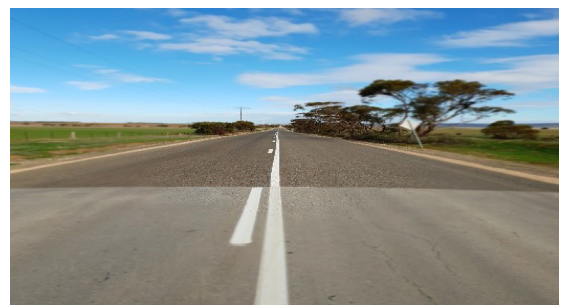
Swan Reach Deep Mooring

The Swan Reach Deep Mooring Project is also well under way, it has been funded by the National Stronger Regions Fund. The installation of the piles for the pontoon and mooring has commenced which will accommodate the mooring of the large river vessels (Murray Princess, Proud Mary, PS Marion, PW Mayflower etc.) away from the river bank with an access pontoon to embark and disembark passengers at variable river level water heights.



Milendella Road Construction at Apamurra from Adelaide Road

This project was funded by the Bridges Renewal Program Round 3 and has now been completed. The completion of the road has improved freight movements for not only locals who utilise the road but also the freight vehicles travelling to the grain storage area at Viterra Silos, Apamurra during peak farming and agricultural periods.



Our Plan 2020-24

Council are in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan - Our Plan 2020-24.

Our Plan 2020-24 will build on the foundations of the 2016-20 Community Plan that was developed in partnership with the community by Council in 2016. The plan will set the direction for the business for the next four years and will shape the future of Council's operations. It will be a key instrument for the delivery of programs and services to the community and the long-term financial sustainability of Council.

A key component of the development of a robust Strategic Plan is engagement and consultation with stakeholders during the planning phase, and Council has just completed the first stage of community consultation on the draft Themes, Focus Areas and Goals as part of the planning process as outlined below:

OUR PLAN MILESTONES



Stage 2 consultation on the complete draft plan will be undertaken in September and the more feedback that Council receives, the more robust Our Plan 2020-24 will be, so please watch out for notification of the second stage of consultation which will be promoted through Council's communication channels.

Mid Murray Our Town

Are you passionate about improving mental health outcomes for people in the Mid Murray district? Then Mid Murray Our Town needs you!

The Our Town initiative puts the power for change into our community's hands.

We have a rare opportunity to work together across all sectors of the community to design a long-term plan to tackle some of these challenges. We aim to build a mental wellbeing support system that will deliver the best outcomes for our community and meet the unique needs of our region.

Mid Murray Our Town will focus on engaging, empowering and activating our community in the area of mental health and wellbeing. We need diverse voices and experiences in the Mid Murray Our Town team to create a future plan that will best represent the needs of everyone in our community. To help us create the plans, we need to know what's really happening in our community.

Keep a look out for the Mid Murray Our Town Wellbeing Survey. Follow us on Facebook @MidMurrayOurTown2020



Mid Murray Council has worked closely with the community and international disability access experts EnvironArc to develop the draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, consulting widely with people with disabilities, their carer's, disability service providers and the broader community throughout January and February 2020. Have your say drop in sessions were held late June and early July and feedback was open until 8 July 2020. Watch this space for the new Plan.



Dog owners will be aware that the registration of all dogs fall due on 1 July each year. The renewal of all expired dog registrations must be paid prior to 31 August each year.

In 2018, the Government introduced its online registration known as Dogs and Cats Online or DACO.

Upon renewing your dog's registration last year within the new DACO registration process, you would have provided information to DACO on how you would like your dog registration renewal reminders received in the future.

This would have included via mail, email or SMS.

It is now your responsibility to ensure all details previously recorded on DACO relating to your pets and your contact details, including any new microchip numbers, are up to date on DACO.

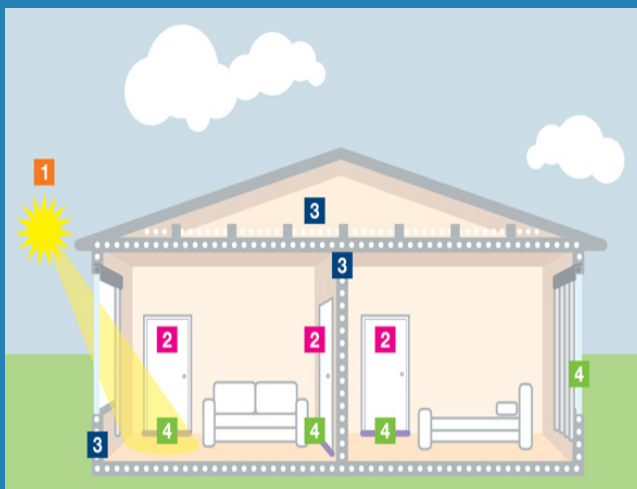
From 1 July 2018 the Dog & Cat Management Act 1995 made it mandatory for all dogs and cats over the age of 3 months of age to be desexed and microchipped, and the details of the microchipped and desexed dog and cat to be recorded on the DACO system. Owners of cats who have registered the details of their cats on DACO, will also receive a renewal for registration for their cat in the same method as dog owners. **THERE IS NO FEE FROM COUNCIL ASSOCIATED WITH CAT REGISTRATION ON DACO.** Cat owners are only required to check and update their personal details and the details of their cats annually.

Things you need to know are:

- Council no longer post dog registration renewals to dog owners. This is now undertaken by DACO via your nominated method of contact.
- Your dog will no longer receive a new disc/tag annually. The original disc/tag you received is your dog's disc/tag number for life. Replacement discs can be ordered on DACO or you can choose to purchase your own tag from a pet tag supplier.
- From 1 July 2018 ALL dogs and cats over the age of 3 months must be desexed and microchipped.
- When renewing your dog or cat registrations on DACO, should the microchip number not be provided, you may receive a fine for failing to do so.
- You can update your information on DACO at any time, this includes all new registrations, desexing or microchipping information, and if your dog or cat goes missing or passes away.
- Exemptions from microchipping your dog and cat can only be provided in writing by your vet.

Should you have any questions in relation to this information please feel free to contact Council's Animal Management Officers through any office of Council.

Winter Heating Guide



No one wants to spend more than they need to when heating their home. Before turning your heater on this winter, make sure your home is well-insulated, draught-proofed and that you are only heating the areas you need:

1 - Let the sun shine into your home, 2 - Only heat the areas you need, 3 - Insulation, 4 - Draught proofing.

If you would like to learn more about how to manage your home energy costs and use visit www.sa.gov.au/energysmart. You will find information on how to check and reduce your energy use, information on how much your household appliances and other energy users are costing you, how you could make your home more energy efficient, how to read your meters and much more.

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