

MEDIA RELEASE

WASTE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS TO ROLL OUT ACROSS MID MURRAY

Waste management services across the Mid Murray district will be enhanced to improve efficiency, sustainability and service delivery for residents, businesses and visitors.

The Mid Murray Council conducted a comprehensive review of all its waste management services during 2020, with strong public input during consultation. The results of the *Waste Management Services Review* recommend short and longer term changes to services across residential, public, commercial, marina, green waste and hard waste services, along with transfer stations and the Cambrai Landfill.

The Council will soon begin implementing the changes to ensure the region's waste management services are as efficient and sustainable as possible and meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.

For residential properties, the introduction of a waste service charge has been recommended in a step towards a user pays system of service provision, and this will be considered as part of Council's rates review process, which is currently being undertaken. This would ensure only the properties that have access to kerbside waste collection services would pay for this service.

Educational programs will also be implemented in the short-term to help residents better understand how they can reduce their reliance on waste streams, as well as reducing waste creation, recycling, upcycling and repurposing.

Other short-term initiatives include:

- Developing a method for a sustainable approach to providing street, open space and event bins;
- Charging commercial events for waste and recyclable bin services to recover costs (but waiving fees for not-for-profit events);
- Continuing to offer green waste disposal days at Council's Transfer Stations;
- Considering an alternative hard waste disposal system and revoking the rates notice voucher system; and
- Conducting a best practice review into Council's Transfer Stations to implement a sustainable service.

Longer-term measures include:

- Reviewing the viability of a residential kerbside green waste service;
- Conducting a full review of the Cambrai Landfill as a commercial operation;
- Assessing condition of public street/community bins with replacement of bins and renewal of bin surround shrouds for town precincts (main streets) and principal open space locations as needed; and
- Consider treating marinas in a similar way to holiday home areas, with bins supplied and regularly emptied and a service charge applied.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said the review showed Council's commitment to ensuring its services continue to meet the needs of ratepayers while also being value for money.

"In the past Council has met the cost of kerbside waste collection through general rates for example, but that has meant many in our community were paying for a service they didn't receive," Mayor Burgess says.

“By adopting a service charge, those who benefit most from the kerbside waste collection service will continue to receive that benefit, but will share the cost through a user pays model.

“A similar approach applies with commercial events, where organisers have the capacity to contribute to the costs of waste management. However, this won’t apply to events run by not-for-profit groups.”

Education will also form a strong focus of Council’s approach to improve waste management. Education programs will assist in raising public awareness of ways to minimise waste and increase recycling efforts.

– ENDS –

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