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MEDIA RELEASE

Mid Murray Council to Overhaul Stormwater Management Plan

Mid Murray Council is planning to review and overhaul its Stormwater Management Plan for all townships, to plan for future development in the region.

Council's Integrated Water Management Plan was developed more than nine years ago, covering the townships of Blanchetown, Cadell, Mannum, Morgan and Swan Reach.

High rainfall events occurring in the region approximately every two to three years have sometimes resulted in damage to Council roads, verges and footpaths and are also affecting some of the properties of local residents.

Mid Murray Council Director of Infrastructure Greg Hill says a recent petition sent to Council by a small group of Mannum residents concerning ongoing issues with "unmanaged stormwater" has the attention of Elected Members.

"Council understands this is a matter of concern for some of the community and onsite inspections by Council staff will be arranged with those affected residents," he says.

"These localised flooding events are also an ongoing cost for Council. Just in this financial year, Council has spent about \$200,000 in stormwater works."

Mr Hill says Council is currently examining options to update the current stormwater plans and community participation would be a big part of the review process.

"The development of any major plan will involve community consultation and also take into account historic knowledge and how significant rainfall events have affected residents and townships in the past," he says.

"Furthermore, the plan will need to address the projected future growth and expansion of townships over the next decade and the level of infrastructure required.

"With any good plan, you need to think what can be achieved short-term, medium-term and long-term."

The revised plan should also recognise the individual impact on residents, Mr Hill says.

"A new plan should be regionally based and deliver individual outcomes for townships such as Keyneton, Tungkillo, Swan Reach and Blanchetown, not just focus on Mannum," he says.

Reiterating that revising the plan is a priority in the upcoming 2018/2019 financial budget Mr Hill says feasibility and cost-effectiveness are also major factors for Council.

"This is a major project with significant levels of consultation and funding," he says.

"We will consider feasible and affordable works that can be achieved within Council's budget to undertake the best outcome for all of the community.

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