

## MEDIA RELEASE

# WARD CHANGES PROPOSED FOR MID MURRAY

Mid Murray residents are being asked to have their say on how the community will be represented by their local Council.

The Mid Murray Council is undergoing a representation review process with a particular focus on the current ward structure.

This structure cannot be retained due to an imbalance in the elected member to elector ratios in the Shearer (10.18%) and Eyre Wards (13.89%), with these ratios exceeding the statutory tolerance of  $\pm 10\%$ .

Fourteen options have been put forward in a *Representation Options Paper*, residents and ratepayers are now being urged to provide their feedback during the community consultation period. The options include:

1. **Three wards** – six different options covering various ward boundary changes, and options for between 7 and 9 total elected members spread across the wards.
2. **Two wards** – five options across various ward boundary concepts, with options for between 7 and 9 total elected members split across the wards.
3. **No wards** – three options for between 7 and 9 Councillors to be elected from anywhere in the Mid Murray district.

In addition to the ward boundary changes, residents are also asked to provide feedback on whether they want to continue electing a Mayor, or want to change to a Principal Member of Council, who would be chosen by the Elected Members.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said community consultation was a critical part of the representation review process and would help Council decide the best way forward.

“Local government plays a vital role in serving our community and maintaining access to infrastructure, services, programs and facilities that affect our residents’ daily life, so it’s important people have their say on how they want their voice to be represented on Council,” Mayor Burgess says.

“Having no change is not an option this time, so if people feel strongly about one of the options that they want to see Council adopt, they should take the time to make a submission and have their views heard.”

Last time Council went through the process, back in 2013, it changed from five wards to three (Shearer, Murray and Eyre) and from 11 Councillors to nine.

To read more about each option visit [www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/community/public-consultation](http://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/community/public-consultation). Consultation opens 16 March 2021 and runs until 5 May 2021.

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