

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **CONSULTATION OPEN ON POLICIES FOR OUTDOOR DINING, DISPLAY OF GOODS ON FOOTPATHS**

Changes are proposed to the way traders use footpaths or operate outdoor dining areas in the Mid Murray to ensure their use of public spaces doesn't impact access, safety or amenity.

The Mid Murray Council is seeking community feedback on its plans to update its *Display of Goods on a Footpath Policy* and its *Outdoor Dining Policy*.

Both policies aim to ensure ongoing accessibility and protect the safety of pedestrians, shoppers and diners, while also offering good practice design and planning controls to manage the amenity of business precincts.

**Community consultation on the updated proposed policies is open now and runs until 22 March, 2024.**

Mid Murray Council Mayor Simone Bailey said the policies contributed to creating vibrant, enjoyable public spaces, with benefits for traders and the community alike.

"Our town centres and main shopping streets are important areas for community connection, economic development and encouraging tourism," Mayor Bailey said.

"Part of maintaining the vibrancy of these areas is ensuring that pedestrians and shoppers have clear, uncluttered and safe access on footpaths, and that the amenity of these areas complements the visual appeal of the surrounding area.

"We have some beautiful, historic precincts, as well as stunning river and park views in many of our towns. These are not only attractive places for visitors to stop and explore, but they're important functional centres for our community to carry out their everyday business and connect with others.

"There is a balance in maintaining public spaces that are accessible, safe, welcoming and visually appealing, while supporting businesses to attract customers and adding to the vibrancy of the precinct, and we are looking for feedback on that."

Following a recent review, a number of changes have been proposed to the policies, including:

- **Display of Goods on a Footpath Policy**
  - the reduction of the pedestrian access zone from 1800mm to 1500mm to accommodate footpaths within the Council district
  - an increase of public liability insurance cover to \$20,000,000
  - a review of enforcement action as a result of permit contraventions.
- **Outdoor Dining Policy:**
  - an increase of public liability insurance cover to \$20,000,000
  - a review of enforcement action as a result of permit contraventions
  - the removal of permitted smoking in outdoor dining areas due to legislative change
  - inclusion of blinds/awnings with associated outdoor dining.

Businesses are required to hold a permit to display goods for sale on a public footpath, or to establish and run outdoor dining facilities. Both activities are also subject to conditions including the position, size and location of objects such as racks, furniture and signage placed in outdoor areas.

For more information, including the updated policies, visit <https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/council/latest-news/display-of-goods-on-a-footpath-policy-and-outdoor-dining-policy-consultation-open>.

Written submissions must be received no later than 5pm on Friday, 22 March, 2024 via [postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au](mailto:postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au) or mail to PO Box 28, Mannum SA 5238.

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