

MEDIA RELEASE

CONSULTATION OPEN ON BY-LAW TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF MID MURRAY COUNCIL CAMPGROUNDS

Camping areas across the Mid Murray will be covered under an updated by-law to improve the management of campsites across the district.

Mid Murray Council is seeking community feedback on its plans to list specific campsites under its care and control to be covered in its *By-law Number 7 – Camping and Mooring*.

While Council has a current by-law in place, it did not specify which areas were designated for camping, which meant it was unable to enforce camping restrictions. The ratifying of Council land covered in the by-law will allow for clear signage and enforcement of approved camping areas, and areas where camping is prohibited.

Community consultation on the proposal is open now and runs until 22 March, 2024.

Mid Murray Council Mayor Simone Bailey said the changes would support tourism in the Mid Murray, while also protecting the area's fragile river ecosystem.

"Tourism and recreation along the River Murray are an integral part of our lifestyle and economy in the Mid Murray," Mayor Bailey said.

"We are so fortunate to live along one of the most beautiful stretches of the River Murray, and we know many of our residents – and many more visitors – love the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature and relax on the river here.

"Our riverfront reserves are incredibly popular for camping, and we want to ensure that they are managed effectively and sustainably so they can be enjoyed by all for many years to come. Part of that involves clearly designating where certain activities such as camping can take place, and protecting other areas for their environmental benefit or activities such as passive recreation, water access and fishing.

"The changes to this by-law will allow Council to define our campgrounds, and where camping isn't permitted. This is important so that riverfront areas are protected from over-use, and that adjoining landowners and communities are protected from the impacts of camping in areas where it isn't suitable."

Land areas proposed to be designated as Camping Reserves include sections of:

- **Bolto Reserve**, Khartoum Road, Bolto
- **Bowhill Road Reserve** adjacent Weber Road, Bowhill
- **Cadell Recreation Grounds**, 81 Dalzell Road, Cadell
- **Collier Park**, Randell Road, Palmer
- **Graeme Claxton Reserve**, Kings Riverside Drive, Cadell
- **Greenways Landing**, Greenways Shack Road, Nildottie
- **Haythorpe Reserve**, Hunter Road, Cowirra
- **Hettner Landing/Len Batten Reserve**, Cliff View Drive, Walker Flat
- **Hogwash Bend**, Hogwash Road, Cadell
- **John S Christian Reserve**, Black Hill Road, Black Hill
- **Rhine Villa Reserve**, Ridley Road, Cambrai

- **Swamp Hen Reserve**, 75 Lakeside Drive, Walker Flat
- **Tenbury Hunter Reserve**, road reserve adjacent Stott Highway and Allotment 23 of DP58704, Swan Reach
- **Towitta Park**, Towitta Road, Towitta
- **Truro Oval**, Oval Road, Truro.

The sites were chosen by Council as many have existing infrastructure and facilities to support camping, have established visitor use with ease of access and known camping spots, and/or are key areas for activation and development.

Having designated camping sites also allows Council to continue to support the environmental protection areas still recovering from the 2022/23 flood by reducing human traffic. It also recognises that some riverfront sites are suited to daytime use only, particularly in places where extended overnight stays may impact adjacent residents or businesses.

The designation of specific camping reserves is not intended to result in additional restrictions or conditions being implemented on the identified areas.

The maximum duration of stay under the by-law is five days, however, some individual areas may require a shorter stay timeframe to promote visitor turnover. Council will monitor the sites' use and consult with adjacent impacted groups about implementing shorter stay periods if there is an adverse impact on its facilities.

For more information, including maps of the proposed camping areas and a copy of the by-law, visit <https://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/council/latest-news/public-consultation-by-law-no.-7>.

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

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