

MEDIA RELEASE

MID MURRAY COUNCIL VOTES TO SUPPORT NEW REPRESENTATION MODEL

The Mid Murray Council has made its final choice of a new model of representation through its Representation Review process.

The chosen model retains Council's existing three wards, but reduces the number of Elected Members from nine to eight in addition to the Mayor. It was chosen from an initial 14 proposals following extensive community consultation, and endorsed by Council at its meeting this month.

The new model will change the Council's composition and structure and will apply from the November 2022 local government elections, once it gains final approval from the SA Electoral Commissioner.

The key changes under the new model of representation include:

- Retaining the Council's three wards – Shearer Ward, Eyre Ward and Murray Ward – but changing the ward boundaries to ensure they comply with the necessary ward quota tolerance limit;
- Reducing the number of ward Councillors from the current nine to eight;
- Continuing with a Mayor elected by the community at Council-wide elections; and
- Retaining the name Mid Murray Council and continuing as a district council.

The Council was required to go through the Representation Review process and make changes to its structure in order to resolve an imbalance in the elected member to elector ratios in the Shearer (10.18%) and Murray Wards (13.89%), with these ratios exceeding the statutory tolerance of $\pm 10\%$.

The Council ruled out other options such as abolishing wards, reducing the number of Elected Members to seven, or reducing the number of wards to two.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said the Council's final decision reflected the wishes of the Mid Murray community.

"We thank everyone in our community who has provided input into this process to ensure that our new representation model continues to provide the best structure for our Council into the future," Mayor Burgess says.

"Council has listened to feedback throughout this process and community input was a key factor in our decision to retain the three wards and reduce the number of Elected Members."

Council's last Representation Review process, held in 2013, reduced the number of wards from five to three, and the number of Councillors from 11 to nine.

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