

23 March 2020

## UPDATED MEDIA RELEASE

# COMMUNITY FACILITY CLOSURES THE LATEST STEP TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Visitor information centres, local museums, pools, leisure and activity centres in the Mid Murray district will close from Tuesday, 24 March to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Following new restrictions adopted by the Federal Government, the Mid Murray Council has reviewed the operation of all its community facilities and made changes to protect the health and safety of residents, visitors, staff and volunteers.

As of 9am on Tuesday, 24 March, the following Council facilities will be closed indefinitely to the general public:

- Mannum and Cambrai Swimming Pools
- Mannum Leisure Centre (effective 12pm on Monday, 23 March)
- Mannum Dock Museum, Landseer Museum, Morgan, and Morgan Craft Shop
- Morgan Activity Centre
- Morgan Visitor Information Office and Mannum Visitor Information Centre (still contactable daily via phone and email between 10am-3pm).

All of Council's volunteer programs have also been suspended indefinitely in order to protect our valuable volunteers from the risk of exposure to this disease.

There are also new measures for Council operations including:

- Staff offered the flexibility and support to work remotely, where possible
- Increased cleaning, stricter hygiene and social-distancing at Council offices and across Council operations
- Encouraging all residents and ratepayers to make payments over the phone or online, where possible
- Limiting public visits to Council offices to essential business only – and encouraging people to call ahead first with their inquiry to determine whether it can be addressed via phone or email.

Mid Murray Council Chief Executive Officer Ben Scales said senior staff were meeting daily to assess the pandemic situation and any impacts on Council's core facilities and services.

"We are continually reviewing the latest advice from the Federal Government, State Government and SA Health and using this to make the best decisions to protect our community from the spread of this virus," Mr Scales says.

"These latest closures will have an impact locally on residents and visitors, but it's critically important at this time that we prioritise the health and safety of everyone including the wider community, as well as our volunteers and staff."

Council's internal COVID-19 operational working group will continue to meet daily over the coming week to assess Council's other services, facilities and operations.

It will regularly update the community on any changes via its website, Facebook page and through local media.

- ENDS -

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