

# Mid Murray Council Newsletter

November 2020



## A Message from the Mayor

As 2020 draws to an end, which has been one of the most unprecedented years experienced in generations, we look forward to 2021 with renewed optimism as we continue the rebuilding process from the impacts of COVID-19.

Our new Strategic Plan, Our Plan 2020-24, is nearing completion and will be adopted in November. Our ambition for the next four years is **Prosperity. Liveability. Sustainability.** If we use these words to guide and drive our focus on rebuilding and growing, I am confident we will bounce back.

With adversity, there is always opportunity and although there are challenges present, growth and prosperity can come from new areas. For example, no overseas travel creates a significant opportunity for our tourism sector to target the local and interstate market; and generally positive rainfall across the district will hopefully deliver a good season for our agricultural sector.

Our Plan 2020-24 will set the direction for the organisation for the next four years. It will provide clarity of purpose, identify the priorities and define what Council will focus on and deliver across this period. Annual operational plans will be developed and these, along with our district action plans, will advance the key activities from our adopted Plan to ensure our goals are met over the next four years.

We have been very fortunate to receive a substantial amount of grant funding through the Federal Government's Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program (MDBEDP), an initiative that aims to increase economic activity, create jobs and build community resilience in areas affected by historic water recovery efforts, along with \$745,746 under the Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP). Project details and a map indicating the areas where this funding will be expended is provided in the newsletter. All of the projects planned will deliver significant benefits to the region, support local jobs and businesses and assist in the area's recovery in these challenging times.

At the time of preparing this newsletter, advice has also been received that Mid Murray Council will receive a further \$736,216 in additional stimulus funding under the LRCI Program, bringing the total allocation for Mid Murray Council from the LRCI Program to \$1,481,962. Council is still to determine which project/s will be undertaken with this funding. The ongoing support of the Federal Government and Member for Barker, Tony Pasin MP for the region is acknowledged and appreciated.

As the festive season approaches our thoughts are with those families that may not be able to be together due to COVID-19 restrictions. Whatever this looks like for you, I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and I look forward to working with you in 2021.

*Mayor Dave Burgess*

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**more than**  
**\$10M**  
**in capital expenditure**  
**(funded by \$5.2M of Federal grants)**

## Building Better Regions Funding\*

- Len White Reserve Upgrade \$500K

## Murray Darling Basin Grant Funding

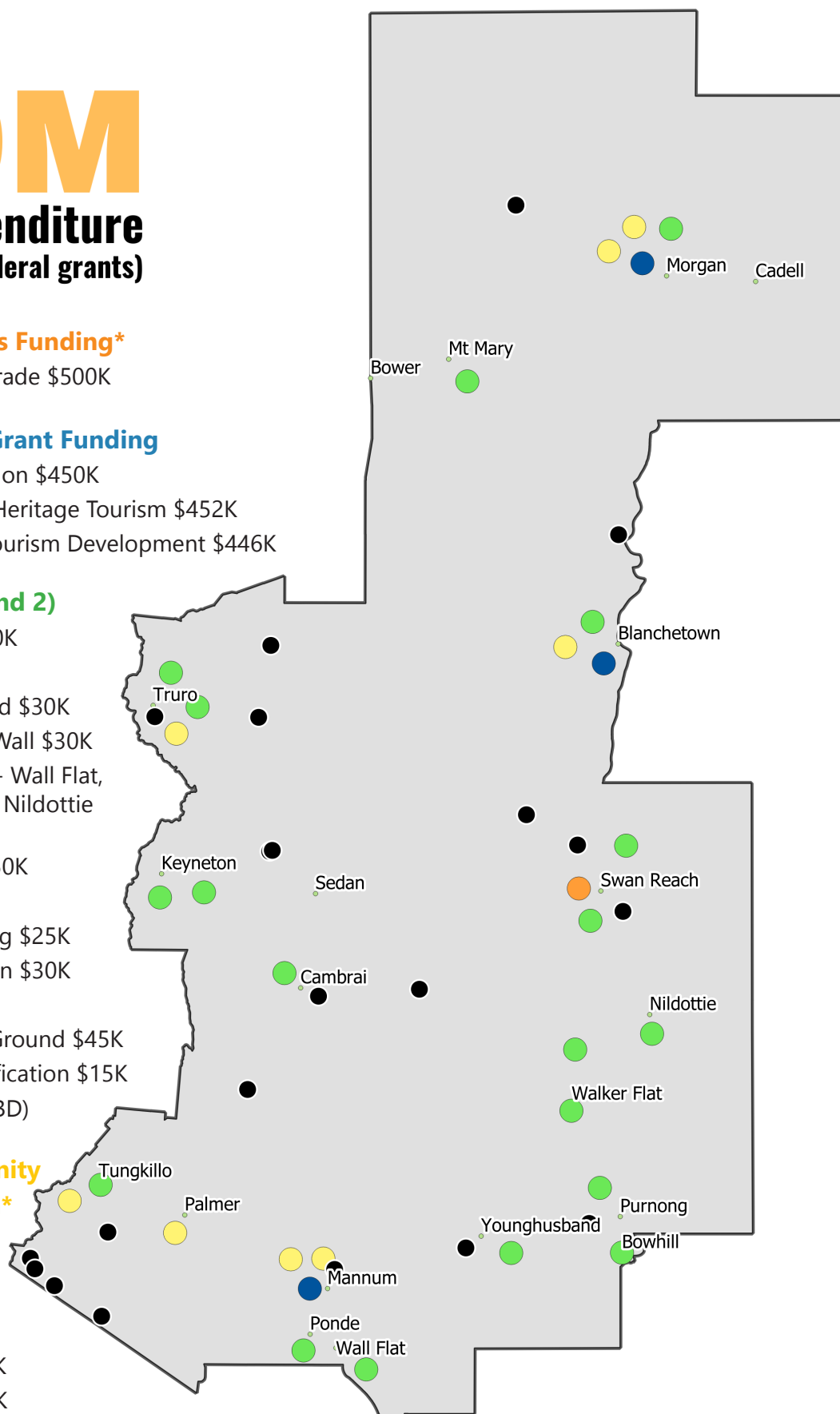
- Blanchetown Revitalisation \$450K
- Mannum Murray River Heritage Tourism \$452K
- Morgan Murray River Tourism Development \$446K

## Drought Funding (Round 2)

- Truro Public Toilets \$300K
- Bowhill RV Area \$30K
- Youngusband Hall Shed \$30K
- Keyneton Post Agency Wall \$30K
- Community Halls Solar - Wall Flat, Tungkillo, Walker Flat & Nildottie \$30K
- Meldanda Dark Skies \$50K
- Wongulla Shelters \$15K
- Swan Reach Hall Painting \$25K
- Mt Mary Hall Restoration \$30K
- Footpaths \$250K
- Caurnamont Camping Ground \$45K
- Zadows Landing Beautification \$15K
- Standpipes (locations TBD)

## Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program\*

- Footpaths \$429K
- Disability Access & Inclusion Plan \$75K
- Stormwater - Morgan, Tungkillo & Palmer \$95K
- Mannum Institute \$168K

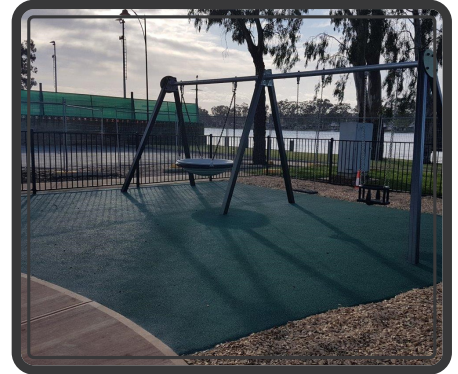
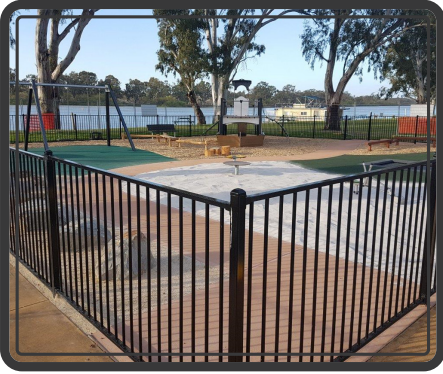


- Building Better Regions Funding\* - \$500K
- Drought Funding (Round 2) - \$1M
- Murray Darling Basin Grant Funding - \$1.348M
- Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program\* - \$767K
- Road Renewals - \$3.493M

*\*includes Council co-contribution*



# Mary Ann Reserve Playground Upgrade



*Council is pleased to have completed the playground upgrade at Mary Ann Reserve in time for the warmer weather. Shade sails are due to be erected in November.*

## Fire Prevention – Waiting for the Fire Danger Season is Too Late

All of us, who chose to live or own land within regional South Australia, must take responsibility when it comes to bushfires. The Mid Murray Council region is no exception.

It is all too easy to forget the impact that the Cudlee Creek fires had on South Australia and parts of our region throughout 2019 & 2020, and for many to believe “it won’t happen to us”.

In South Australia, legislation within Section 105F (1) of the Fire & Emergency Services Act 2005, makes it a requirement for:

An owner of private land must take reasonable steps -

- (a) to prevent or inhibit the outbreak of fire on the land; and
- (b) to prevent or inhibit the spread of fire through the land; and
- (c) to protect property on the land from fire; and
- (d) to minimise the threat to human life from a fire on the land.

Maximum penalty of \$5,000 applies.

Each year, Council’s Fire Prevention Officers experience frustrations with many landowners or occupiers who choose to ignore the requirements of the Fire & Emergency Services Act (the Act), relating to their responsibilities to manage the fire risks on their land.

In October, Council’s Fire Prevention Officers commenced inspections of all properties within the Council district, to ensure landowners or occupants have complied with their responsibilities of the provisions of the Act. Those failing to comply with these requirements will be issued Orders in accordance with Section 105F (5) of the Act, to reduce the hazards on their land, and may be expiated for their failure to do so.

Council’s Fire Prevention Officers and the CFS are passionate in ensuring you are all prepared for the Fire Danger Season. It is with this in mind that Council seek everyone’s support in ensuring your properties are prepared for the fire danger season, and not await for a reminder from the Council before undertaking the appropriate works.

Should you have any questions or require further information on preparing your property for the fire danger season, please feel free to contact Council’s Fire Prevention Officer at any office of Council or the CFS.

It is your life and property you are protecting and that of your community, so “start work now!”



A CFS unit travelling the adjoining hills of Tungillo. Photo: AAP/Kelly Barnes.

### Be Bushfire Ready!

You can be bushfire ready even if you are planning to leave early or renting your home:

- Keep gutters clean and free of debris.
- Mow, rake and weed to remove fine fuels within 20 metres of your home.
- Prune shrubs so that their tops are well away from the lower branches of trees.
- Prune lower branches of shrubs and trees to separate the foliage from the ground fuels underneath.
- Reduce loose bark, dead twigs, leaves or branches from your yard.
- Move firewood and flammable items (such as paper recycling, boxes and crates) further away from your home.



## Parking on Verges & Footpaths

Council has received complaints from residents regarding vehicles parking either partly or wholly on the verge and footpaths. Parking in this manner makes it difficult for pedestrians to navigate the area, especially those with prams, pushers and small children. Vehicles parked on the verge are putting the lives of pedestrians at risk by forcing them to walk on the road. The manner in which the vehicles are parked also causes damage to the verge, kerb and gutter and formed footpaths. The construction of footpaths and repairs to damage is ultimately borne by ratepayers.

Section 197 of the Australian Road Rules states "a driver must not stop on a bicycle path, footpath, shared path or dividing strip, or a nature strip adjacent to a length of road in a built up area." An expiation fee is applicable for this offence.

Given the complaints have been justified, Council's inspectors will be performing random inspections of the Council area. Expiations will be issued for offences of the Road Traffic Act, Australian Road Rules and Local Government Act. Your assistance is sought to protect the safety of pedestrians using the footpath and to eliminate unnecessary expenditure of ratepayers' money for footpath repairs. Please consider pedestrians and other ratepayers.



## The mosquito season is upon us once again!

It's mosquito season again and Council is asking all residents to cover up by wearing long, loose fitting clothing and using an insect repellent containing diethyl toluamide (DEET) or Picaridin. Try to avoid going outside during dusk and dawn, as this is when the mosquitoes are most active.

Check around your home to ensure there are no pools of stagnant water in places such as pot plant saucers, bird baths, wading pools, gutters, septic tanks, rainwater tanks (paraffin oil can be put into the rainwater tanks), old tyres, ponds and dams. Check fly screens on your doors and windows – they don't need a big hole to get in.

Council is continually monitoring mosquito numbers at trapping sites throughout the region, as well as treating problem mosquito breeding sites, but mosquito numbers can only be controlled to a certain degree so it's most important to cover up when going outside. Nobody deserves a mosquito bite!

For further details please contact one of the Environmental Health Officers at the Cambrai office on 8564 6020 or Google "SA Health Fight the Bite".

### Waste Management Survey

Thank you for completing our survey on the review of council's waste management services. The community's voice is an important part of the review, which will be completed early 2021 - stay tuned for more information.



### CONTACT DETAILS

#### All Correspondence to -

Mid Murray Council

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#### Development & Environmental Services

Main Street, Cambrai, SA  
Telephone: (08) 8564 6020  
Facsimile: (08) 8569 1931

#### Morgan & Districts Community Hub

Cnr Fourth & Eighth Street, Morgan, SA  
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Facsimile: (08) 8569 1931