

**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **COMMUNITY FEEDBACK IMPROVES CHANGES TO MORGAN RIVERFRONT HOUSEBOAT MOORING ZONE**

Community input has helped refine improvements to houseboat mooring on Morgan’s popular riverfront to encourage visitors to stay longer and enhance access for other recreational river users.

Houseboat users will now be able to extend their stay in a designated overnight mooring area to 48 hours (from 24 hours), to encourage tourists to remain in the area for longer.

Thanks to community input during the consultation process, the council has relocated the overnight mooring zone to the northern (upstream) end of the Morgan Riverfront Reserve. Houseboats will also be excluded from mooring directly in front of land operated by the Morgan Riverside Caravan Park, which leases the site from Council.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said the changes reflected community input during the consultation process throughout October and November, with 11 public submissions received by Council.

“The relocation of the overnight mooring area to the northern end of the reserve was widely supported,” Mayor Burgess says.

“We have been very focused throughout this process on striking the right balance between the community’s wishes for the riverfront’s use and the need to cater for, and encourage, houseboat tourism and the economic benefits it brings to Morgan.

“Houseboat visitors will now be able to stay 48 hours, instead of the previous 24, in the overnight zone, giving them more time to enjoy all Morgan has to offer.

“One focus now, thanks to the community’s feedback, will be to install improved signage to minimise confusion - so that short-term houseboat visitors know they are welcome to moor along the riverfront for day-time visits, but need to relocate to the overnight zone if they plan to stay.”

The changes also follow feedback from houseboat hirers, local businesses and private houseboat operators that included confusion over mooring sites, and concern the previous overnight mooring zone presented a safety risk because of its proximity to the Morgan Ferry and a 4 knot marker in the main river channel.

For more information on the houseboat mooring changes visit [www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au](http://www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au).

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