

Equitable Access and Usage Policy

Submissions Summary Report

August 2025

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Introduction

On 23 July 2025 Council publicly notified the Equitable Access and Usage Policy and invited submissions (See **Attachment 1 - 5**).

One submission was received at the close of the engagement period.

Council prepares a Submissions Summary Report. Council's summary essentially lists the main points made by each submitter, and what outcome they seek from Council's decisions. All non-confidential submissions are available in **Appendix 6**.

Where amendments have been sought by a submitter, red underlined text has been used to indicate recommended additions to the provision and red strikethrough to indicate recommendations for the removal of the proposed text.

It should be noted that the Response and Action columns are draft recommendations presented to Council as part of the decision-making process. Consequently, Council may resolve to accept them with or without amendments in the final document.

Privacy

Please note that only the name and location of each submitter is detailed in the report. All personal details in the original submission contained in the appendices are redacted to maintain privacy.

Any commentary that is considered defamatory or inappropriate have been redacted.

Submission Summary and Response

Andrew Carragher, Cadell

Submission#/Point #	Provision	Submission Point Summary	Decision Sought	Response	Action
1.1	General	Acknowledges and appreciates intent of the Policy for improvements in access to sports for girls, and improvement of facilities for all genders.	Nil	Noted	No amendment.
1.2	General	Wording in the Policy focuses solely on one gender and in effect excluding many people, specifically children from genuine equitable access in sports.	Wording be changed to be inclusive of all and still meet the desired outcomes.	The policy is intended to focus on female inequity whilst ensuring male, LGBTQI+, First Nations and culturally and linguistically diverse people are not disadvantaged.	No Amendment.

Appendix

Appendix 1 - Public Notice

The Public Consultation was advertised in Murray Pioneer and Leader Newspaper 23 August 2025 and Murray Valley Standard 24 August 2025.



Council is currently seeking feedback on the following:

Equitable Access and Usage Policy

Mid Murray Council resolved to endorse a new *Equitable Access and Usage Policy*.

The Policy seeks to increase female participation in sport by providing women and girls better access to sporting infrastructure, programs and services.

Consultation begins on Wednesday 23 July 2025.

Where to obtain copies

A copy of the draft Policy is available for inspection on Council's Your Say www.engagement.mid-murray.sa.gov.au or at Council Offices located at Mannum, Cambrai, Morgan or Blanchetown.

How to provide feedback

Written submissions are invited on the draft Policy and can be received through the following means:

- Mid Murray Your Say feedback form www.engagement.mid-murray.sa.gov.au;
- Letter addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Mid Murray Council, PO Box 28, Mannum SA 5238; or
- Email postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au.

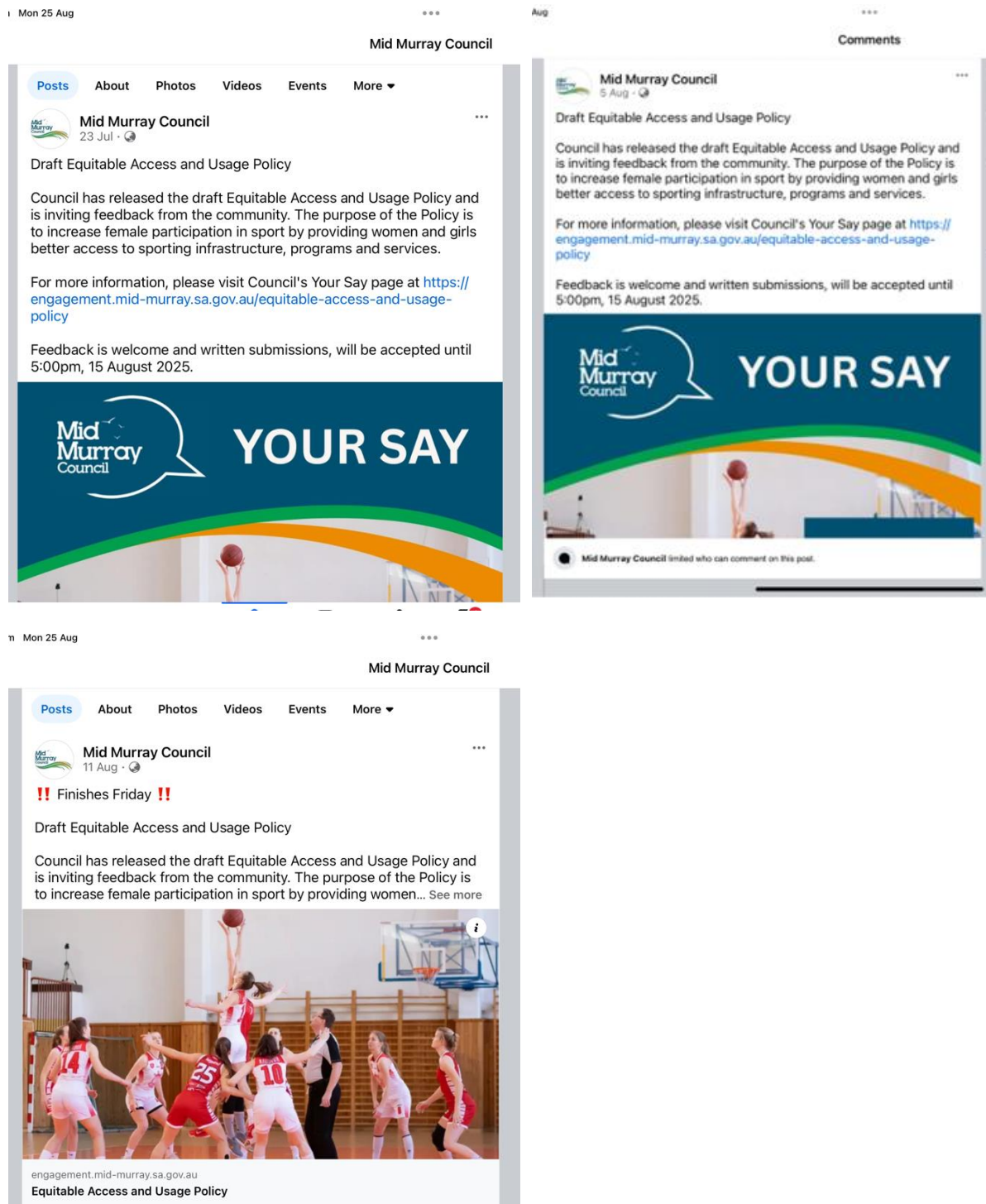
Submissions will be received until 5pm Friday 15 August 2025.

For more information, contact Executive Assistant – Development and Community Services, Melissa Marschall on 8569 0100.

Ben Scales
Chief Executive Officer

Appendix 2 - Social Media Posts

The Public Consultation was promoted on Council's Facebook page on the following dates – 23 July, 5 August and 11 August 2025.



Appendix 3 – Council TV Screens

The Public Consultation was promoted on Council's screens in Council facilities during the consultation phase.



Mid Murray Council

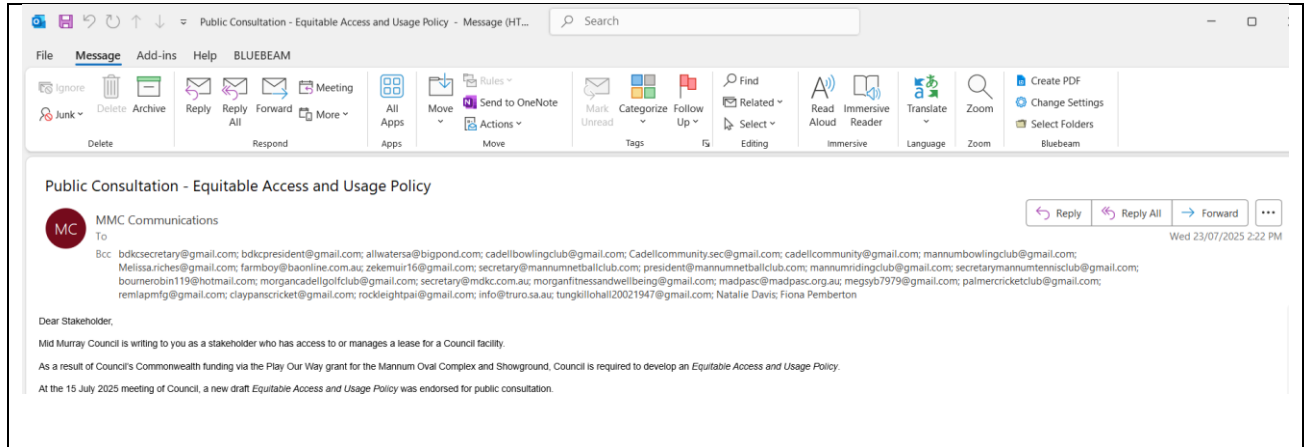
YOUR SAY

Equitable Access and Usage Policy

Consultation Open
23 July to 15 August

Appendix 4 - Email to Stakeholders

Notification of the Public Consultation was emailed to Council's stakeholder list on 23 July 2025. Hard copies of the plan were available at all Council offices for the period of Consultation.



From: MMC Communications
Sent: Wednesday, 23 July 2025 2:22 PM
Subject: Public Consultation - Equitable Access and Usage Policy

Dear Stakeholder,

Mid Murray Council is writing to you as a stakeholder who has access to or manages a lease for a Council facility.

As a result of Council's Commonwealth funding via the Play Our Way grant for the Mannum Oval Complex and Showground, Council is required to develop an *Equitable Access and Usage Policy*.

At the 15 July 2025 meeting of Council, a new draft *Equitable Access and Usage Policy* was endorsed for public consultation.

The *Equitable Access and Usage Policy* seeks to:

- Provide a management framework to address barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sport infrastructure, to ensure all voices, concerns, and experiences, are an integral dimension of the design, implementation, and monitoring of policies and programs.
- Ensure Council complies with all current legislation and related policies.
- Progressively build capacity and capability within Council in the identification and elimination of systemic causes of gender inequality in community sport infrastructure design, policy and program development and delivery.
- Ensure any design phase of any new, upgraded, or repurposed community sport infrastructure, includes community engagement and consultation.

This Policy applies to all Mid Murray Council owned sporting and recreation facilities.

As a key stakeholder of a Council facility, your organisation may be impacted by this Policy.

Consultation begins on Wednesday 23 July 2025 and closes 5pm Friday 15 August 2025.

For more information and to view the draft *Equitable Access and Usage Policy* please visit Council's [Your Say](#).

Where to obtain copies

A copy of the draft Policy is available on Council's [Your Say](#) or at Council Offices located at Mannum, Cambrai, Morgan or Blanchetown.

How to provide feedback

Written submissions are invited on the draft Policy and can be received through the following means:

- Mid Murray [Your Say](#) feedback form,
- Letter addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Mid Murray Council, PO Box 28, Mannum SA 5238, or
- Email postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au.

Submissions will be received until 5pm Friday 15 August 2025.

Kind regards,

Mid Murray Council
PO Box 28, Mannum SA 5238
T: 08 8569 0100
Email: postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au
Web: www.mid-murray.sa.gov.au

Appendix 5 - Council's website

On the engagement page of Council's website from 23 July (and as a tile and banner on the front page of website from 24 July 2025).

Equitable Access and Usage Policy

Home / Equitable Access and Usage Policy

The purpose of the Policy is to increase female participation in sport by providing women and girls better access to sporting infrastructure, programs and services.

It provides a management framework to address barriers experienced by girls and women in accessing and using community sport infrastructure. The Policy is designed to trigger a mechanism whereby Gender Impact Assessments are conducted at the planning stage for new or upgrades to sporting infrastructure, or the development of new programs and services for females.

Key Messaging:

- Increase community engagement and raise awareness around equity and access issues facing girls and women to sporting facilities, as well as other minority groups facing equity and access issues.

Introducing a Gender Impact Assessment process each time a council owned sporting / recreation facility is earmarked for an upgrade or replacement, or a new sporting program or service is being designed and developed.

Written submissions are invited on the Equitable Access and Usage Policy and can be received through the following means –

- Mid Murray 'Your Say' feedback form,
- Letter addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Mid Murray Council, PO Box 28, Mannum SA 5236, or
- Email postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au

Submissions will be received until 5pm Friday 15 August 2025.

Feedback Form - Equitable Access and Usage Policy

First Name Required

Last Name Required

Suburb Required

Document Library

Draft Equitable Access and Usage Policy
PDF (240.95 KB)

Timeline

- 17 June 2025**
A briefing on the Equitable Access and Usage Policy was provided to Council.
- 15 July 2025**
Presented a draft Equitable Access and Usage Policy to Council for endorsement for public consultation.
- July - August 2025**
Public Consultation period 23 July 2025 to 16 August 2025.
- August 2025**
Should any submissions be received upon completion of the public consultation period, a report will be presented to Council along with a recommendation to adopt the Policy with or without amendments.
Should no submissions be received upon completion of the public consultation period, the proposed Policy will be adopted.

Appendix 6 - Submissions

Mid Murray Your Say

Feedback Form - Equitable Access and Usage Policy Results

Aug 13, 2025 - Aug 13, 2025

Project: Equitable Access and Usage Policy

Form: Feedback Form - Equitable Access and Usage Policy

Tool Type: Form

Activity ID: 20

Exported: 2025-08-18 08:41:49

Exported By: NVivian

Filter By: No filters applied.

Response No:
1

Contribution ID: 76

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Aug 13, 2025, 08:19 AM

Q1 First Name

Short Text Andrew

Q2 Last Name

Short Text Carragher

Q3 Suburb

Short Text Cadell

Q4 Email

Email adcarragher@gmail.com

Q5 Would you like to make any comment on the Equitable Access and Usage Policy?

Long Text In my youth in the 1980's it was very rare for girls to play football, and equally rare for boys to play netball. One netball association tried to ban boys. Eventually they were forced to allow them, but insisted they were a skirt. When I played tennis at one club, boys were forced to use the girls toilets at the tennis/netball club.

I am glad things have progressed and my daughters have been supported to try football. I would equally hope boys are given an equitable opportunity to participate in sports such as netball and gymnastics. This is an area that seems to be lacking in Australia at present.

I am in full support of improvement of facilities so all genders, including trans people can participate in the sport of their choice in a genuinely inclusive environment. If there are issues with practice times regarding genders, I am in full support of this being rectified.

I am not in favour of wording in a Equitable Assess and Usage Policy focusing solely on one gender and in effect excluding many people, specifically children from genuine equitable access in sports. It is very possible for the wording to be changed to be inclusive of all and still meet the desired outcomes.