

Light Management Plan and Dark Sky Policy

Submissions Summary Report

August 2025

Contents

Introduction	2
Submission Summary and Response	3
Anthony Wills, Black Hill	3
John John, Blanchetown	3
Chris Tugwell, Mid Murray Landcare	4
Appendix	6
Appendix 1 – Public Notice	7
Appendix 2 – Social Media Posts	9
Appendix 3 – Email to Subscribers	10
Appendix 4 – Emails to Key Stakeholders	11
Appendix 5 – Submissions	14

Introduction

On 25 June 2025 Council publicly notified the Light Management Plan and Dark Sky Policy and invited submissions (See **Appendices 1 – 4**).

Three (3) submissions were 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 5**.

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

Anthony Wills, Black Hill

Submission#/Point #	Provision	Submission Point Summary	Decision Sought	Response	Action
1.1	General	Applauds Plan. Has concerns over the number of developments, works, and illuminated light sources between Black Hill and Swan Reach.	Nil	Council seeks to ensure that new development is compliant given the non-mandatory nature of the Policy and Plan and advocating for State level response.	No amendment.
1.2	General	Concerns over the heavy vehicle bypass and what impact this may have on the dark sky accreditation and light measurements.	Nil	Both the Heavy Freight Route and Dark Sky Reserve have been noted in the new Murray Mallee Regional Plan. Council will continue to advocate for protection of the Reserve.	No amendment.

John John, Blanchetown

Submission#/Point #	Provision	Submission Point Summary	Decision Sought	Response	Action
2.1	General	Concerns regarding light pollution with the construction of new shacks, and the installation of floodlights.	Nil	Agree that there is an increase in light pollution along the river. Without a mandatory regulatory control, Council is reliant on property owners to reduce their lighting requirements.	No amendment.

2.2	General	Street lighting is located close to the viewing platform and unused BBQ shelters and toilets.	Nil	The nearest streetlight to the viewing platform is inactive as per SA Power Network. Council to review as part of LED rollout.	No amendment.
-----	---------	---	-----	--	---------------

Chris Tugwell, Mid Murray Landcare

Submission#/Point #	Provision	Submission Point Summary	Decision Sought	Response	Action
3.1	General	Provision of detailed information on the Reserve to all development applications.	Nil	An Advisory Note is added to development approvals.	No amendment.
3.2	General	Included an 'overlay' in the Planning Code to provide on-going protection.	Nil	Council has written to Minister for Planning to initiate a Code Amendment to introduce an overlay.	No amendment.
3.3	General	Raise awareness with SA Power Networks and power companies.	Nil	Council has raised importance of the Reserve as part of the LED rollout and achieved 3000K and 117-Wattlighting for Council owned infrastructure.	No amendment.
3.4	General	Work to improve and update Dark Sky knowledge among Council staff.	Nil	All staff are made aware of Council's Policy and documents as they are developed/reviewed and adopted.	No amendment.
3.5	General	Commitment to work with neighbouring Councils.	Nil	The Rural City of Murray Bridge are looking to adopt a similar policy/approach to help protect the Reserve.	No amendment.

3.6	General	Raise awareness/community events that educates the community.	Nil	Noted.	No amendment.
3.7	General	Simplification of the approval process.	Nil	Noted.	No amendment.
3.8	General	Incentives to attract Dark Sky and Space Research businesses and facilities.	Nil	The Code Amendment is also an opportunity to address investment opportunity within the Reserve.	No amendment.
3.9	Plan and Policy	Work with existing residents and businesses to change to Dark Sky compliant lighting.	Nil	See above.	No amendment.

Appendix

Appendix 1 – Public Notice



Council is currently seeking feedback on the following:

By-laws

Council has reviewed and updated its By-laws to reflect current laws and Council processes and fulfilling its obligation under Section 251 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, where it is a legislated requirement that Council reviews its By-laws every seven years.

By-laws provide rules and governance and assist in providing convenient, safe, comfortable and inclusive space for its community.

The following By-laws have been reviewed:

- By-law No. 1 – Permits and Penalties
- By-law No. 2 – Moveable Signs
- By-law No. 3 – Roads
- By-law No. 4 – Local Government Land
- By-law No. 5 – Dogs
- By-law No. 6 – Cats
- By-law No. 7 – Camping and Mooring

Consultation begins on Thursday 26 June 2025 and closes 5pm Friday 18 July 2025.

Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Policy

Council has reviewed and updated its *Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Policy*.

The revised documents ensure Council continues to lead in responsible lighting management, community education, and long-term protection of the region's natural night sky.

Consultation begins on Wednesday 25 June 2025 and closes 5pm Friday 25 July 2025.

Where to obtain copies

A copy of the revised By-laws, Plan and Policy are 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

Feedback on the revised By-laws, Plan and Policy is welcome with written submissions to be received by the Chief Executive Officer, Mid Murray Council, PO Box 28, Mannum SA 5238, or email postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au; or via the feedback forms on Council's Your Say www.engagement.mid-murray.sa.gov.au, no later than the consultation closure dates.

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

Posts published on 25 June 2025 and 9 July 2025

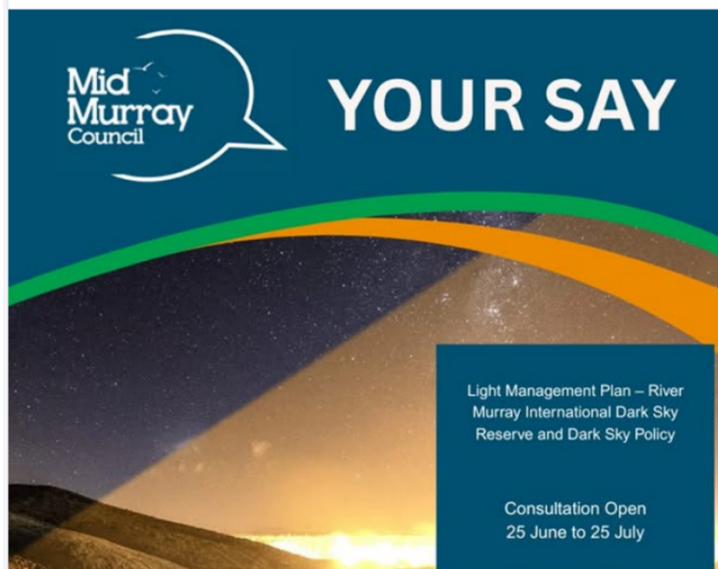
Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Policy
Council has reviewed and updated its Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Policy to ensure Council continues to lead in responsible lighting management, community education, and long-term protection of the region's natural night sky.
Council has released the revised Plan and Policy and is inviting feedback from the community.
To view the revised Plan and Policy and provide feedback, please visit Council's Your Say page at <https://engagement.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/>
Consultation closes at 5pm Friday 25 July 2025.



Post published on 21 July 2025

! Finishes Friday !

Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Policy
Council has reviewed and updated its Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Policy to ensure Council continues to lead in responsible lighting management, community education, and long-term protection of the region's natural night sky.
Council has released the revised Plan and Policy and is inviting feedback from the community.
To view the revised Plan and Policy and provide feedback, please visit Council's Your Say page at <https://engagement.mid-murray.sa.gov.au/>
Consultation closes at 5pm Friday 25 July 2025.



Appendix 3 – Email to Subscribers

From: MMC Communications
Sent: Friday, 27 June 2025 10:09 AM
Subject: Public Consultation - By-laws, Light Management Plan - River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Policy

Dear Mid Murray Council subscriber,

Council is currently seeking community feedback on the following:

By-laws

Council has reviewed and updated its By-laws to reflect current laws and Council processes and fulfilling its obligation under Section 251 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, where it is a legislated requirement that Council reviews its By-laws every seven years.

By-laws provide rules and governance and assist in providing convenient, safe, comfortable and inclusive space for its community.

Consultation begins on Thursday 26 June 2025 and closes 5pm Friday 18 July 2025.

For more information and to view the revised By-laws please visit Council's [Your Say](#).

Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Policy

Council has reviewed and updated its *Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Policy*.

The revised documents ensure Council continues to lead in responsible lighting management, community education, and long-term protection of the region's natural night sky.

Consultation begins on Wednesday 25 June 2025 and closes 5pm Friday 25 July 2025.

For more information and to view the revised *Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Policy* please visit Council's [Your Say](#).

Where to obtain copies

A copy of the revised By-laws, Plan and Policy are 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 revised By-laws, Plan and Policy and will be received by the Chief Executive Officer, Mid Murray Council, PO Box 28, Mannum SA 5238, or email postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au; or via the feedback forms on Council's [Your Say](#), no later than the consultation closure dates.

[Click here](#) to unsubscribe.

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 4 – Emails to Key Stakeholders

From: [REDACTED] Post Box
Sent: Friday, 27 June 2025 8:24 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: OEM4248-25 - 5/LMP/1 - Invitation to Provide Feedback – Dark Sky Policy and Light Management Plan
Attachments: [Light Management Plan - Draft for Consultation - June 2025.pdf](#); [Dark Sky Policy V2 - Clean - For Consultation.pdf](#)

Rowan Thomas
Policy and Communications Manager
Grain Producers SA (GPSA)

Dear Rowan,

I hope this message finds you well.

Mid Murray Council's *Dark Sky Policy* and *Light Management Plan* are now out for public consultation, and we invite you to review the documents and provide your feedback.

These plans are key components in supporting the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and reflect Council's ongoing commitment to preserving our night skies.

Your insights would be greatly valued, and we welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.

Public consultation is open from 25 June 2025 to 25 July 2025. Please visit [Mid Murray Your Say](#) for further information.

Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

Kind regards,

Jarrold Bielby
Manager - Development & Regulation

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

From: [REDACTED] Post Box
Sent: Friday, 27 June 2025 8:20 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: OEM4247-25 - 5/LMP/1 - Invitation to Provide Feedback – Dark Sky Policy and Light Management Plan
Attachments: [Light Management Plan - Draft for Consultation - June 2025.pdf](#); [Dark Sky Policy V2 - Clean - For Consultation.pdf](#)

Travis Tobin
Chief Executive Officer
Livestock SA

Dear Travis,

I hope this message finds you well.

Mid Murray Council's *Dark Sky Policy* and *Light Management Plan* are now out for public consultation, and we invite you to review the documents and provide your feedback.

These plans are key components in supporting the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and reflect Council's ongoing commitment to preserving our night skies.

Your insights would be greatly valued, and we welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.

Public consultation is open from 25 June 2025 to 25 July 2025. Please visit [Mid Murray Your Say](#) for further information.

Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

Kind regards,

Jarrold Bielby
Manager - Development & Regulation

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

From: [REDACTED] Post Box
Sent: Friday, 27 June 2025 8:11 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: OEM4246-25 - 5/LMP/1 - Invitation to Provide Feedback – Dark Sky Policy and Light Management Plan
Attachments: [Light Management Plan - Draft for Consultation - June 2025.pdf](#); [Dark Sky Policy V2 - Clean - For Consultation.pdf](#)

Adrian Bormann
President
Murray Plains Farmers

Dear Adrian,

I hope this message finds you well.

Mid Murray Council's *Dark Sky Policy* and *Light Management Plan* are now out for public consultation, and we invite you to review the documents and provide your feedback.

These plans are key components in supporting the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and reflect Council's ongoing commitment to preserving our night skies.

Your insights would be greatly valued, and we welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.

Public consultation is open from 25 June 2025 to 25 July 2025. Please visit [Mid Murray Your Say](#) for further information.

Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

Kind regards,

Jarrold Bielby
Manager - Development & Regulation

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

From: [REDACTED] Post Box
Sent: Friday, 27 June 2025 8:31 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: OEM4249-25 - 5/LMP/1 - Invitation to Provide Feedback – Dark Sky Policy and Light Management Plan
Attachments: [Light Management Plan - Draft for Consultation - June 2025.pdf](#); [Dark Sky Policy V2 - Clean - For Consultation.pdf](#)

Dara Frankel - Principal Regional Advisor, Murraylands & Riverland
Jennifer Shilling - Acting General Manager Regions
PIRSA

Dear Dara and Jennifer,

I hope this message finds you both well.

Mid Murray Council's *Dark Sky Policy* and *Light Management Plan* are now out for public consultation, and we invite you to review the documents and provide your feedback.

These plans are key components in supporting the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and reflect Council's ongoing commitment to preserving our night skies.

Your insights would be greatly valued, and we welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.

Public consultation is open from 25 June 2025 to 25 July 2025. Please visit [Mid Murray Your Say](#) for further information.

Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

Kind regards,

Jarrold Bielby
Manager - Development & Regulation

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

From: [REDACTED] Post Box
Sent: Friday, 27 June 2025 8:35 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: OEM4250-25 - 5/LMP/1 - Invitation to Provide Feedback – Dark Sky Policy and Light Management Plan
Attachments: [Light Management Plan - Draft for Consultation - June 2025.pdf](#); [Dark Sky Policy V2 - Clean - For Consultation.pdf](#)

Dada Hu
Chief Executive Officer
SA Chicken Meat Council

Dear Dada,

I hope this message finds you well.

Mid Murray Council's *Dark Sky Policy* and *Light Management Plan* are now out for public consultation, and we invite you to review the documents and provide your feedback.

These plans are key components in supporting the River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and reflect Council's ongoing commitment to preserving our night skies.

Your insights would be greatly valued, and we welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.

Public consultation is open from 25 June 2025 to 25 July 2025. Please visit [Mid Murray Your Say](#) for further information.

Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

Kind regards,

Jarrold Bielby
Manager - Development & Regulation

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

Appendix 5 – Submissions

Mid Murray Your Say

Feedback Form – Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Policy Results

Jun 25, 2025 - Jul 23, 2025

Project: Light Management Plan and Dark Sky Policy

Form: Feedback Form – Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve and Dark Sky Policy

Tool Type: Form

Activity ID: 15

Exported: 2025-07-28 08:38:11

Exported By: NVivian

Filter By: No filters applied.

Response No:
1

Contribution ID: 70

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jul 23, 2025, 03:20 PM

Q1 First Name

Short Text Anthony

Q2 Last Name

Short Text Wills

Q3 Email

Email

Q4 Suburb

Short Text Black Hill

Q5 Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

Long Text

I applaud the councils Plan.
However, Mannum itself is dramatically impacting on the quality of the Dark Skies along with numerous new developments/Works/Highly Illuminated light sources between Black Hill and Swan reach.

Q6 Dark Sky Policy

Long Text

Invaluable to the longterm protection of the Mid Murrays future.

What will the planned Re-routing of Heavy Vehicles have on the Dark Skies accreditation? as I understand the nature preserve in Cambrai (just off the OD route) is the area responsible for the 21.9 result. What potential could the proposed substantial increase in Heavy Vehicles have as they nightly transit through Cambrai? or the Dark Sky reserve in general? The ones that come through currently are extremely well lit up.

Response No:
2

Contribution ID: 68

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jul 10, 2025, 12:26 PM

Q1 First Name

Short Text john

Q2 Last Name

Short Text john

Q3 Email

Email

Q4 Suburb

Short Text Blanchetown

Q5 Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

Long Text

Light pollution is only getting worse with the knee jerk reaction building policy along the flood plain shack areas. The shackies are installing massive floodlights to light up the cliffs and have been getting worse every year . Blanchetown still has lighting right near the so - called viewing platform in town.It also has a streetlight 50 mtrs away. Laughable.

Q6 Dark Sky Policy

Long Text

Response No:
3

Contribution ID: 57

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2025, 05:40 PM

Q1 First Name

Short Text john

Q2 Last Name

Short Text john

Q3 Email

Email

Q4 Suburb

Short Text blanchetown

Q5 Light Management Plan – River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve

Long Text

This is almost laughable when considering the monstrosities of approved holiday homes going up with massive flood lights reflecting off of the cliffs now. We never seen so many as there are now and it is getting worse. Even this council has light issues right near the dark sky platform with lighting on all night at the unused bbq shelter and toilets along with the street lights that the so called viewing area overlooks. This is one of the dopiest ventures by council that i have witnessed. Obviously someone is handing out money for this Dark sky stuff.

Q6 Dark Sky Policy

Long Text

A/A

From: Chris Tugwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 25 July 2025 1:21 PM
To: Post Box
Subject: IEM13261-25 - 5/POL/DSKY/2 - Light Management Plan & Dark Sky Policy

Dear Ben,

Please accept these comments in the positive spirit they are meant. Overall, I believe these are important documents that outline a clear strategy to maintain and improve the Dark Sky Reserve.

- provide detailed information on the Reserve to all development applications, including recommendations for compliant outdoor lighting
- work to get the Reserve included as an 'overlay' in the Planning Act to provide on-going protection
- work with SA Power Networks and power companies to raise awareness of light pollution among their customers
- work to improve and update Dark Sky knowledge among Council staff on an on-going basis
- a commitment to work with neighbouring Councils to advise, educate and encourage the use of Dark Sky compliant and smart lighting in their region. e.g. talks with Murray Bridge Council to lock in smart lighting in the proposed new subdivisions
- a program to raise awareness of the Reserve among Mid Murray residents (many still don't know about it)
- a clear strategy to educate the community, including shack owners and other temporary residents
(perhaps a series of public talks with Progress Associations etc. coordinated with Mid Murray Landcare SA)
- support for community events that educate the community about the international significance of the Reserve.
- simplification of the approval process for Dark Sky developments
- incentives to attract Dark Sky and Space Research businesses and facilities into the region.
- work with existing residents and businesses to change to Dark Sky compliant lighting, placing external lights on timers, or shielding existing lights

Thanks for this opportunity, and thank you for your on-going support of this extraordinary project.

Regards,
Chris Tugwell
Chair, Mid Murray Landcare SA Inc &
Founder, River Murray International Dark Sky Reserve