



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

8 December 2017

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE DRAFT MURRAY RIVER EROSION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Interested members of the community are invited to have a say on the draft Erosion Management Plan which has been developed for the Murray River between South Corowa and the Ovens River junction.

Member for Albury, Greg Aplin said the draft plan, which has been developed by the Murray River Erosion Management Committee comprising of representatives from local councils, Roads and Maritime Services, Murray Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn Valley Water, proposes a three year trial of 'wake-enhancing' boating restrictions and land-based remediation and management practices to remediate and protect this section of the river.

"Measures to achieve long term environmental sustainability outcomes have been balanced to ensure on-water activities can continue to thrive in the region. Achieving this balance has been central to the considerations of the multi-agency committee since its formation 12 months ago," Mr Aplin said.

"As well as being an Australian icon, the Murray River provides water and is a vital asset for homes and properties downstream. Tourism along the river is also a key economic driver for local communities.

"Feedback on the draft plan is invited by Wednesday 28 February, and all input will be considered when the committee develops the final plan.

"The draft plan already incorporates extensive community, industry and river user feedback and has been developed to manage the rate of erosion, along with safety and amenity issues for all waterway users identified in this section of the river.

"Part of the draft plan involves a trial of potential restriction of high impact 'wake-enhancing' activities such as 'wake boarding' in the 49 kilometre section of the river which has been identified as particularly vulnerable to erosion. Importantly, under the proposed plan 'wake-enhancing' activities would not be restricted in adjacent sections of the river.

"The draft plan acknowledges there are a number of factors which contribute to erosion levels in this section of the river, including the regulation of water levels, and contains a number of water and land-based proposed actions which may be implemented as a trial which would be monitored and reviewed.

"It is important to stress, the plan does not propose to restrict wake boats from the area, only 'wake-enhancing' activity. Wake boats would still be permitted to transit through the restricted area as long as they are not operating in a way which creates excess wake.

“This plan could enhance opportunities for passive and smaller craft activities to grow in this section of the Murray. Other water sports, such as water skiing, paddle boarding and fishing will not be affected by the plan.”

Community information sessions are planned for people to receive information from committee members, ask questions and leave feedback at:

- Bundalong: 6pm to 8pm on Monday 15 January 2018 at the Bundalong Community Centre, Bundalong Recreational Reserve, Pyke Street at Bundalong
- Yarrawonga: 6pm to 8pm on Tuesday 13 February 2018 at the Yarrawonga Community Hall, Orr Street at Yarrawonga
- Corowa: 6pm to 8pm on Thursday 15 February 2018 at Memorial Hall, Sanger Street at Corowa.

Feedback can be also provided via the project website, email to MurrayRiverErosion@rms.nsw.gov.au, or mail to Murray River Erosion Project, Roads and Maritime Services, Locked Bag 5100, Camperdown NSW 1450.

All input received will be considered when the committee develops the final plan.

The draft management plan is on display on the RMS website at <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/south-coast/river-murray-erosion-management-plan/index.html>

MEDIA: Greg Aplin 6021 3042 or 0428 600 343