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MEDIA RELEASE

**MAJOR UPGRADE TO HISTORIC PINNAROO CWMS IS
NOW WELL UNDERWAY**

The first stage of a major upgrade of Pinnaroo's ageing Community Wastewater Management Scheme (CWMS) commenced in June and is now well underway.

Initial investigation work occurred over a 4-6 week period earlier this year, with construction works for Stage 1 commencing in June.

Affected homeowners have already been notified of the project and the need to access private properties to undertake Stage 1 renewal works. Ongoing information will be provided to them as works progress.

Southern Mallee District Council allocated \$580,000 on Stage 1 of the upgrade in the 2019/20 financial year with a further budget allocation also included in the 2020/21 financial year. The works will improve the service for local residents and deliver operational efficiencies for Council.

The town's wastewater system was built back in 1962 – and was the first Septic Tank Effluent Drainage Scheme of its kind in SA. But a Council investigation during 2018-19 found significant deterioration in the original pipe network.

Council has engaged Wallbridge Gilbert Aztec (WGA) to project manage the works in the Pinnaroo township area bounded by Railway Terrace North, Gordon Terrace, Bunday Terrace, Pethick Street, Hensley Street and Homburg Terrace. Council at its February meeting resolved to appoint SADB Directional Drilling to undertake the construction works. WGA and Council's Infrastructure Services staff will work with SADB to deliver this critical project.

Southern Mallee Acting Chief Executive Officer Matthew Sherman said the substantial upgrade would create a public asset that would benefit Pinnaroo residents and property owners for years to come.

"This is an important project that will overhaul the existing 58-year-old wastewater infrastructure network," he said.

"The significant damage to the pipe network that's been caused over time has created a number of problems for Council and households.

"It's also meant that the cost to run the CWMS system has been increasing, and it's become quite difficult to maintain a high level of service for our residents.

"This staged upgrade will, over time, replace the old network with a new system that will improve reliability, service function and ongoing efficiency that will benefit both residents and Council."

Critical sections of the pipe network which need upgrading will be prioritised first.

Further, particular attention has been given to procedures in line with the Coronavirus social distancing measures. These changes ensure that interaction with private property is limited to only

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necessary activities and strict hygiene and cleaning practices are in place to minimise risk of exposure.

“We know that disruption to your property is never convenient, but we’re asking affected property owners to please work with us to deliver this important project efficiently,” Mr Sherman says.

“We’ll be making every effort to ensure residents are kept up to date throughout the project and notified in advance when access is required to their property, or when interruptions might occur.

“Ultimately, this is a project that will have significant benefit for households and it will ensure they’re receiving the best possible wastewater service well into the future.”

Residents will receive ongoing communications from WGA about the scope of works planned for their individual property and likely timing. Council will ensure that any disturbed areas are reinstated as soon as possible in order to minimise any inconvenience.

The Stage 1 project is expected to be completed by late 2020.

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