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MEDIA RELEASE



PINNAROO AND LAMEROO TOWN CENTRE MAKEOVERS TOP \$4 MILLION IN FUNDING

Visitors will soon find it impossible to drive past the Southern Mallee towns of Pinnaroo and Lameroo without stopping in for a look, with a new \$2.25 million Federal Government grant to deliver the first three stages of exciting new town centre redevelopments.

The *Building Better Regions Funding* (BBRF) grant, announced this month, adds to the existing \$1m in *Drought Communities Funding* already committed from the Government earlier this year for the two projects. The Southern Mallee District Council has also committed \$750,000 to the projects, taking the overall investment to a whopping \$4m for the two towns.

This is a huge leap of support for the Pinnaroo and Lameroo communities, which, despite consecutive years of drought, have continued to show resilience and innovation in their proactive approach to remaining economically viable, highly liveable and progressive.

The two projects - the *Pinnaroo Village Green Masterplan*, and the *Lameroo Town Centre Plan Project* - have gained strong support from their communities during development and consultation over the past 12 months. Both plans aim to create places for fun, culture, recreation, tourism, social connection and economic growth.

Some of the highlights spanning the two plans include a 'big' attraction for Pinnaroo, nature play space, water splash park, public art, extensive RV facilities, improved walking/bike trails, increased parking, refurbished war memorial, shelters, seating, interpretative signage, improved WIFI access, landscaping, plaza developments, pump track, dog park, public toilets, improved pedestrian crossings and more.

Southern Mallee Mayor Andrew Grieger said this month's funding announcement was a major boost in confidence for the community, but also for business owners and industry which have continued to invest in the towns to keep families living and working there.

"Our communities are buzzing with news of this funding, and we are grateful to the Federal Government and the Member for Barker Tony Pasin for their continued support of and investment in our district's future," Mayor Grieger says.

"Not only does it mean all members of our community will have these incredible public spaces to use every day, but that our economy will prosper because of the visitor numbers which will grow dramatically once upgrades are complete.

"Locals have long known that Lameroo and Pinnaroo are great little rural towns in which to live, do business and raise a family, but now they'll also be known as great places to visit – and even if we can get 5% more of that Mallee Highway traffic stopping here, it will make a major difference to our economy, help create jobs and sustain our towns long term."

Both the *Pinnaroo Village Green Masterplan*, and the *Lameroo Town Centre Plan Project* have now been adopted by their community steering committees.

Media contacts:

Southern Mallee District Council Chief Executive Officer Jason Taylor
P: 0447 717 751 | E: Jason.taylor@southernmallee.sa.gov.au



“Both the towns’ plans have a long list of improvements which make the most of our open space,” Mayor Grieger says.

“Importantly, the plans are also a reflection of our passionate and committed communities, which have been with us along this journey each step of the way – and we thank them for their support and time.”

Two local volunteer steering committees have helped drive each of the projects over the past 10 months, working with Council leaders, project managers and external open space design consultants to bring this together.

“Primarily, these spaces will create more opportunity for social interactions and civic pride amongst our two Southern Mallee towns. Where many small rural towns are rolling over in the wake of the drought and shrinking populations, we’ve bucked the trend and are creating our own way forward.

“We hope both projects will bring local people together more often, strengthen ties across generations, and provide places for more unstructured physical activity which has flow-on effects for health and wellbeing.”

On top of this, the projects have already gained significant State-wide attention, with the district establishing itself as an important place for tourists and travellers to visit.

“With a growing tourism economy, comes opportunity,” Mayor Grieger says.

“The opportunities are endless, and I’m looking forward to seeing the work take shape over the next two and a half years.”

Under the BBRF funding agreement, the works for stages 2-3 must be complete by the end of 2022, while Stage One on both projects will begin this year and be complete by Christmas. Council has commenced recruitment for an experienced project manager to oversee this enormous amount of both planning, and on-the-ground work.

These projects build on recently completed capital projects like the refurbishment of both swimming pools, completion of two new childcare centres and the planning underway through the Business and Visitor Wayfinding Signage Project. Demonstrating once again, that the Southern Mallee is leading the way in creating sustainable and liveable towns in regional South Australia.

For more information on the projects, visit www.southernmallee.sa.gov.au.

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