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## MEDIA RELEASE

As the Rural City of Murray Bridge prepares to go to tender for the delivery of the Pondi Playspace at Sturt Reserve, it is also looking to ensure opportunities exist for local trades and businesses to be part of its planning and construction for the project.

While Council recognises that a project of this scale will require a Tier 1 tenderer to deliver the project in its entirety, there may be the need to sub-contract a range of services along the way. It's here that Council wants to ensure locals with the capability have a chance to bid for this work - and as such, our project leaders have developed a process for Expressions of Interest (EOI) to be submitted for this work.

Council will then provide details of companies that submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to prospective Tier 1 tenderers, who will independently determine any subcontracting opportunities and whether they engage local businesses.

This is above and beyond the Council's normal process for infrastructure delivery, demonstrating our commitment to support the local economy and employment.

Mayor Wayne Thorley said the Pondi Playspace was not only a major investment in community wellbeing and tourism, but throughout construction it created an opportunity for local businesses to be part of a major milestone for our riverfront.

"This will be the biggest recreation precinct our Council has ever delivered and we want our local businesses with the relevant skills, experience and capability to have a chance to be involved," Mayor Thorley says.

"This will help to grow confidence, skills and experience for our local industries, while increasing their opportunities for future contracts as Murray Bridge moves through a period of strong growth.

"This project has so many unique facets to it. Not only will it transform our riverfront into a landmark destination, but it is inspired by Ngarrindjeri culture, creating an inclusive, accessible and nationally significant playspace. It's the kind of project we want our locals to make their mark on.

"As a Council, we want to support local industry participation wherever practical and this encourages local businesses to make themselves known ahead of construction start."

Examples of works packages that may become available include civil construction, electrical and hydraulic services, landscaping, structures and public infrastructure, play and recreation, specialist professional services, plant and equipment, material supply and more.

The first step in the EOI process is a brief survey that asks interested organisations a series of key questions, including the uploading of a capability statement. Following this, Council will hold an online Q&A session, facilitated by the project managers, for organisations that have submitted their EOI for the project.

Once the EOI process is complete, Council will provide prospective tenderers with the details of interested local businesses. Tenderers can then consider local capability and potential opportunities for collaboration when preparing their bids for the project.

The project is jointly funded by \$4.85M from the Australian Government's Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program (MLCIP).

Council is providing \$3.45M from its existing infrastructure renewal budget - set aside for the replacement of major community assets that have reached the end of their useful life.

For more information on how to submit an EOI, visit our website here:

[EOI'S Open for Major Playspace Project | Murray Bridge Council](#)

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