



The Rural City of
**MURRAY
BRIDGE**

Bridge to Opportunity

Local Government Centre
2 Seventh Street (PO Box 421)
Murray Bridge SA 5253

T 08 8539 1100
F 08 8532 2766

council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au
www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au

ABN 90 501 266 817

MEDIA RELEASE

Subject: Possible Outsourcing of the operations and potential ownership of Council's Community Water and Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS and CWWMS)

Contact: Anthony Brown
General Manager – Corporate Services
8539 1100
a.brown@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

Date: 11 July 2018

The RCMB owns and operates two small community wastewater management systems and two small community water management systems at Riverglen and Woodlane.

Operating the CWMS and Water Assets systems is not core business of Council although the Council is required to ensure the sustainability of the provision of these services. The size of the systems does not justify the employment of specialised staff to manage these systems therefore Council is exploring opportunities of outsourcing the operations and potentially ownership of these assets but with assurances of the long-term continual provision of the services. Whilst the schemes are relatively small, risks associated with providing potable water in particular, is potentially high.

Council is exploring outsourcing the assets because a specialist water company is likely to be in a position to operate these assets more efficiently and also provide a better level of service to customers due to the economies of scale it can achieve.

The operations undertaken by RCMB are not of a sufficient size to interest third party operators, therefore, in conjunction with the City of Onkaparinga and Adelaide Hills Councils, Council sought expressions of interest to identify how a new operator would either maintain or improve the service for customers in all three Councils.

A number of Expressions of Interest have been received therefore the three Council's consider it worthwhile continuing to the next stage of the project to consult with the community about the options.

If a decision is made to outsource the operations and ownership of these assets, pricing for customers will be the responsibility of the new operator and the State Government's Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA). ESCOSA is the economic regulator that oversees the pricing of licenced water service operators. Any potential new operator will need to comply with ESCOSA's price determinations.

There is a community survey which can be accessed on the following link https://letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/CWMS-consultation/survey_tools/CWMS-survey We will also be collating information on Council's Let's Talk <https://letstalk.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/CWMS-consultation> and web www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au/publicconsultation pages

Feedback received plus the community survey results will be presented to Council to determine whether to proceed to a Request for Tender (RFT) in partnership with the City of Onkaparinga and Adelaide Hills Councils. It should be noted that if Council decides to proceed to an RFT, this does not commit Council to accepting any proposal it may receive.

If you have further questions or wish to provide feedback please forward your queries via email to council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au using the subject heading "Water Assets".