



Murrumbidgee COUNCIL

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MEDIA RELEASE

23 October 2017

DARLINGTON POINT POSITIONING TO GRAB A BIGGER SHARE OF TOURISM DOLLARS

Darlington Point businesses, community and Council are working together to grab a bigger share of Riverina tourism dollars.

Hot on the heels of tourism related funding applications submitted by Council for refurbishment of the Goanna walking track and construction of a new riverside boat ramp, comes an announcement that a new motel is set to be constructed in Darlington Point.

Murrumbidgee mayor Ruth McRae has been a long-term supporter of tourism initiatives in the Murrumbidgee Council area, including representation on Thrive Riverina, the Newell Highway Promotion and The Kidman Way committees.

Mayor McRae counts the partnership with business as a key factor in increasing tourism within the Council area, especially Darlington Point.

“It is great to see business and community stepping up to invest and drive outcomes in the tourism industry. I recently opened a new exhibit at Altina Wildlife Park and they are planning more tourism related investment,” Cr McRae said.

“Accommodation is key to leveraging the value of tourism to our local economy. The approval of a Development Application for a new motel is great news for Darlington Point, and the Riverina tourism region.”

The Darlington Point Motel is proposed as an eight-room motel complex including a disability unit. The plans include expansion of up to 17 rooms. The motel will be located a short walk from the main street at the corner of Hay Road and DeMamiel Streets. Work to build the motel is expected to commence mid-2018.

Council General Manager Craig Moffitt advised accommodation made a \$38m Gross Value Added contribution to the Riverina economy in the previous year.

He welcomed the motel development as exciting news.

“This is a positive sign for our community,” he said.

“It shows business confidence is growing in the Council area, and it positions Murrumbidgee to take better advantage of tourism related expenditure.

“Council is committed to working with business, community and government to grow Murrumbidgee as a visitor destination of choice.

“This motel aligns well with the Land Use Plan that has been developed for Darlington Point, and the economic and tourism projects that are currently being worked on by Council, business and community organisations. This private investment in the accommodation industry will increase overnight stays which is key to growing a stronger performing tourism industry.”

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