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MEDIA RELEASE

SPORT, COMMUNITY PROJECTS ARE HIGHLIGHTS FOR KAROONDA EAST MURRAY 19/20 BUDGET

A community pool, gym, clubroom redevelopment and child care centre are among the highlights to be delivered for the Karoonda East Murray District Council over the coming financial year.

New and improved community facilities are at the heart of the Council's *Draft 2019/20 Annual Business Plan and Budget*, which was released for community feedback this week.

A \$270,000 contribution to the Karoonda District Football Clubrooms Redevelopment Project will create female-friendly changerooms and new facilities for officials, as well as a gym for community and sports club access.

The district is also set to regain access to a swimming pool, with \$210,000 set aside for the Karoonda Area School Pool Redevelopment Project. The Council has lobbied hard for State Government support for the pool and is confident the project will be completed in the coming year, giving locals the first access to a community pool since 2014.

The budget will also deliver a five-day a week early childhood education and child care service in Karoonda, a tri-district pest and weed management program in partnership with the Southern Mallee and Loxton Waikerie Councils and a \$60,000 revitalisation of the Wanbi playground and park.

An Economic Development and Tourism Strategy will be developed to guide the region's future economic growth, and young people will be given a stronger voice through the establishment of a Youth Advisory Council and a Youth Action Plan.

Mayor Caroline Phillips said the draft budget put the Council's focus firmly on its community and building a strong future for all generations.

"Council is committed to delivering the infrastructure and services our community needs to grow and thrive and we are excited about these key projects and the benefits they will bring to our region," she says.

The *Draft 2019/20 Annual Business Plan and Budget* can be viewed online at dckem.sa.gov.au. Feedback can be made until 16 July and a public meeting to hear submissions will be held on 18 July at the Karoonda Council Chambers.

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