30 October 2026

-- MEDIA RELEASE --

Community Garden Project to Move Forward Following Strong Community Support

The District Council of Karoonda East Murray is pleased to announce that the proposed Karoonda Community Garden will move to the next stage following strong support from the local community.

Mayor Caroline Phillips said the project was a great example of what could be achieved when Council worked in partnership with the community. "This project began with a great idea from local students and has grown through strong community support and collaboration," Mayor Phillips said. "We're excited to see the Community Garden progress and look forward to it becoming a valuable community space that brings people together and encourages healthy living for years to come."

At its Ordinary Meeting on 20 October 2026, Council endorsed the establishment of a Community Garden at Pioneer Park, the preferred location identified through recent community consultation. Council also approved $3,500 from the Peter Deksnis Bequest to support the delivery of Stage 1 of the project.

The Community Garden project originated from a proposal by students from the Year 7-9 Pastoral Care Group at Karoonda Area School, who approached Council with the idea of creating a shared space where community members could grow produce, connect with others and learn new skills.

“Our Year 7–9 Pastoral Care class have been a part of this project from the very first vision boards through to measuring up sites and producing mock up designs, so seeing Council endorse it has been a real thrill for us. It’s shown us that a good idea, backed by hard work and community support, can turn into something real. We’re grateful to Council and to everyone who took part in the consultation, and we can’t wait to get our hands dirty at Pioneer Park.” Allison Boughen, Karoonda Area School Pastoral Care Group.

Community consultation was undertaken between 18 September and 9 October 2026, with 27 responses received. The consultation demonstrated strong support for the project, with 74 per cent of respondents supporting the establishment of a community garden. Pioneer Park was identified as the community's preferred location.

The consultation also highlighted a range of features residents would like to see incorporated into the project, including edible gardens, fruit trees, seating areas and opportunities for community connection.

Council will now work closely with Karoonda Area School students as planning progresses and the Stage 1 design is refined.

Stage 1 concept ideas previously presented to the community included raised garden beds, quality soil, fruit trees, a watering system, pathways and seating areas, with future stages potentially subject to funding opportunities becoming available.

Further updates will be provided as the project progresses.

-ENDS-