



**Mid Murray Council – Submission to the  
Essential Services Commission of South Australia  
on the Strategic Direction for 2017 – 2020**

I refer to the Forum held in Adelaide on 14 September 2016, and consultation undertaken. In relation to a better regulation framework it was highlighted that both the Mid Murray Council and ESCOSA could better understand each others requirements. In relation to the Mid Murray Council which has 28 Community Wastewater Management Systems and 22 other shack areas that do not have Wastewater Management Systems (but potentially will in the future), any efforts to reduce the compliance requirements and costs to Council would be appreciated. The Council is a minor provider and a small Council with limited resources.

It is understood that the introduction of ESCOSA was largely to monitor the larger companies that manage water, power and sewerage. As outlined, the Mid Murray Council is a small rural Council with limited resources.

At present, we provide a Price Monitoring Report, Financial Operational Report, Annual Compliance including a check list and we have also been required to develop a Customer Charter and a Dispute Resolution Process, even though a similar process document was in place in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act. In addition, we are required to submit additional reports under the Local Government Act Financial Reporting, SA Health and EPA. As indicated, it is considered that there may be an opportunity for better integration of compliance reporting to reduce the costs of Council.

Further, in relation to consumer feedback and consumer views, it is considered that the Mid Murray Council could work with ESCOSA in a better partnership with our consumers. The Mid Murray Council has a good working relationship with residents, ratepayers and consumers and Council's existing level of trust with such consumers could benefit the partnership with ESCOSA in obtaining feed back and consumer views.

The Mid Murray Council regularly consults with it's residents, ratepayers and consumers on a variety of projects and issues.

It is also suggested that a review be undertaken of the compliance and regulatory requirements of Local Government so as to ensure and minimise any duplication in reporting and compliance requirements by ESCOSA.

It would be appreciated if the Mid Murray Council's views could be taken into account as part of your Strategic Direction consultation.

*Russell Peate*

Chief Executive Officer  
Mid Murray Council  
5 October 2016  
Email: [postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au](mailto:postbox@mid-murray.sa.gov.au)  
Phone: 08 8569 0100