

Tourism sector welcomes proposal

By Tyrone Dalton
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THE region's tourism sector has supported the plan for the four to five star holiday resort at Gol Gol. The proposal has received support from publicans, tour operators, Sunraysia residents and the region's tourism boss.

Murray Regional Tourism chief

executive officer Mark Francis said the plan on face value went a long way to meeting the market demand of the future.

"Diversification in the Wentworth and Mildura region is what is going to be required long term and that aligns with where the market is heading," he said. "We're obviously keen to see new development in the region."

"It's a great location and will go a long way to attracting new people to the region."

Northbank on Murray's developers want councilors to approve the rezoning of land to begin the process that would see



Mark Francis
Murraytrek 4WD Outback

villas, serviced apartments and holiday homes, cafes and restaurants, shopping facilities and a golf course constructed.

Gol Gol Hotel licensee Peter Preischer said it would be great to see a resort built.

"Not too much is known about it at the moment, but on face value I would support it," he said.

Adventure Tours operator Trevor Hancock said the region needed a big tourism attraction to get more people to come to Sunraysia for a holiday. "The bigger, the better," he said. Social media users expressed their excitement at the possibility of the resort calling Sunraysia home.

FROM BIG KEY TO HAPPY KEY - PAGE 5

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GOL GOL'S
BOLD VISION

A COLOURS we are proud to have been selected to design the new resort. The development is a bold vision for the future of the region. It will create jobs, attract investment, and provide a world-class destination for tourists and locals alike. The resort will be a landmark development for the region and a source of pride for the community. We are excited to be part of this vision and look forward to seeing it come to life.

Resort plan goes higher

By Melanie Whiting
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WENTWORTH Shire Council has thrown its support behind the Northbank on Murray resort complex plan for Gol Gol.

During a council meeting yesterday councilors voted unanimously that the planning proposal would be submitted to the Minister for the Department of Planning and Environment for consideration.

The Northbank on Murray business case, reported by the *Sunraysia Daily* on Tuesday, proposes cafes, restaurants, shopping facilities, a golf course and water sports.

ADDICO Property principal David Fowler, who is consulting on the project, yesterday told Wentworth councilors the precinct would be a boon for tourism on the NSW side of the Murray River.

"While Wentworth Shire has many of the region's key tourist attractions, it receives only a small share of the area's tourism revenue," he said.

"Tourism and shopping revenue by tourists and Wentworth Shire residents mainly benefits Mildura, this escaped shopping and spending is obviously a lost opportunity for Wentworth."

During the meeting Mr Fowler unveiled the centrepiece of Northbank on Murray, a one kilometre long "Crystal Lagoon" swimming and recreational pool, which would be the only one of its kind in Australia.

"We believe this will probably be the key attraction, it really is one of the world's best amenities," he said. "We believe we will be creating a very

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unique attraction, a beach-side lifestyle within the precinct, it's very innovative."

A proposal for a shuttle bus from the airport to the precinct, which would highlight other tourism attractions in the region, is also being discussed.

"What we are talking about is a tourist attraction, retail and accommodation - all available in the one precinct," he said.

"The Crystal Lagoon, if it goes ahead, would be Australia's first and it would be a game-changing attraction in the area."

Council's support of the project means the development will now move to stage two of a five-step process before construction can begin.

Mr Fowler said community consultation was needed before the project goes ahead.

Salt of the earth
Salinity management in the
Murray-Darling Basin

Guest Speakers:

Neil Andrew
Chair Murray-Darling Basin Authority

Where:

AgVictoria Marquee, C4
Mildura Field Days
SunTAFE Field, Benetook Avenue
Mildura

When:

Friday 19th May, 2017
12noon

Salt of the Earth will be unveiled to the public for the first time and recognises the achievements of stakeholders involved in tackling salinity in the Murray-Darling Basin. The video tells the story behind the Salt Interception Schemes in the River Murray and the people who made it happen. Please join us to help celebrate their accomplishments as we continue to implement the Basin Salinity Management 2030 (BSM2030) strategy into the future.



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