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# Sunraysia Daily

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## SPILL BITES IRRIGATORS - Pages 6-7

**FULL OF INTRIGUE:**  
Artist Keith Armstrong makes a point to Leah Kemp from Scotia Sanctuary about the *Pitfall* exhibition at the Mildura Arts Centre.

Picture: David Sickerdick



### Fusing art and science

By Sophie Prince

**METHODS** for raising awareness surrounding animal conservation in Australia have been revitalised by Brisbane artist Keith Armstrong in his latest exhibition *Pitfall*, currently on display at the Mildura Arts Centre.

The centre's upper gallery has been transformed into a single interactive artwork for the exhibition.

It sits in near darkness with only motion projections screened onto the far walls to light the space and central sculpture.

*Pitfall* is the result of Keith's year-long residency with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy as a part of a project run by the Australian Network for Art and Technology, which works to unite science and art, producing some ground-breaking results.

Constructed out of fibre optics, mapped projections, multiple screens, 3D spatial sound and infrared night imagery, the artwork manipulates data taken from Keith's residencies and combines it with various man-made images.

*Pitfall* will be showing at Mildura Arts Centre until October 27.

# RATE CONCERNS

By Kaitlyn Opie

## Chance to air frustrations

A MILLEWA farmer has claimed Mildura Rural City Council's plans to review its rating strategy was "shutting the gate after the horse has bolted".

Yesterday, council announced it would commission independent consultants to personally meet with concerned ratepayers as part of a stage two revenue review.

Ron Hards said council's failure to implement a differential rate in its 2013-14 budget had "significantly hurt" farmers, but he was keen to be part of the review.

"Council didn't take any notice of our 144 submissions and I don't know whether we'll get anything out

of this," he said. "But current rates are an impost on individuals in the dry land area and can't be tolerated."

Council corporate manager Mandy Whelan said consultants would meet with individual ratepayers, residents and business owners from September 30 to October 4.

Council will take appointments at Mildura, Ouyen, Underbool, Murrayville, Cullulleraine and Nangiloc, with phone interviews also available.

Ms Whelan said ratepayers would be given "two bites of the cherry"

with the opportunity to respond to a draft rating strategy in late October or early November.

"This is the second part of a revenue review which started in September 2012," she said.

"The first step was the removal of the drainage differential and the core of the second phase is reviewing the rating strategy as a whole."

Other farmers also expressed interest in getting involved in the process.

Meringur farmer Joe Fox said the review process was "news to (him)",

but he would like to meet with a consultant.

Mr Fox's sister-in-law, Glenda Fox, farms 9000 acres at Meringur with her husband and son, and said she was also up for "a big, long talk" with consultants.

"Millewa farmers and farmers in general pay far too much in council rates and, as a family unit, we bear too much of the burden," Ms Fox said.

"My argument is that the rating system at the moment is inequitable."

Cr Greg Brown, an Underbool farmer, said the rate review was a "necessary step in the right direction" and it was a good opportunity for all ratepayers to have their say.

Cr Mark Eckel called for community members and businesses to come forward with "substantiated input".

"There were some people who were unhappy about what happened to Mildura Tourism, Mildura Development Corporation and Mildura City Traders," Cr Eckel said.

"This is an opportunity for those people to have their say."

Residents can call 5018 8100 before September 23 to book an appointment with a consultant.

weather 22°

Mildura Partly cloudy Mallee Partly cloudy

Partly cloudy day. Light wind.

Thu 23° Fri 22° Sat 23°

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