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Karbeethan Reserve regional sporting precinct

Karbeethan Reserve has become a new and improved recreational hub for the region with the completion of the new baseball, soft ball and soccer pitches.

The Karbeethan Reserve redevelopment has been a busy hub of construction activity since July 2023 including:

- Upgrade of existing baseball diamond to a Baseball SA Division 1 specification, with installation of LED lighting, irrigation replacement, turf renewal, homerun and backstop fencing.
- Development of sporting infrastructure for Gawler & District Softball Association (currently the Association does not have any fixed infrastructure of its own) – softball diamond with LED lighting, irrigation replacement, turf renewal and backstop fencing.
- Improvements to the main soccer pitch through replacement of the existing ageing and inefficient pitch lighting (with improved LED lighting), irrigation replacement, fencing upgrade and turf renewal.

A combined opening event with all members of the Karbeethan Sporting Association is planned for Saturday 10 February 2024 at 11am, with community encouraged to come along and check out the upgrades.

The completion of the new baseball, soft ball and soccer pitches is a key achievement towards implementing the Karbeethan Reserve Masterplan which seeks to optimise the use of the reserve, maximise participation, and future proof the facility as a regional sporting precinct. Karbeethan Reserve is home to the Gawler Eagles FC (soccer), Gawler & Districts Softball Association (Bluejays, Giants, Kangas, Trinity and Two Wells clubs) and Gawler Rangers Baseball Club.

This significant redevelopment includes lighting, fencing and irrigation upgrades to better support the playing of soccer, baseball and softball at the sporting precinct.

Another major milestone will also be undertaken in 2024 with the installation of modular changerooms at the reserve. The facilities will provide for the existing clubs and associations and allow for further consideration to be given to complimentary sports to utilise facilities on the site, while providing open space recreational areas for the broader community.

Council secured \$900,000 in grant funding for the project from the State Government's Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program. Council is contributing an additional \$2.6 million providing for a total project cost of \$3.4 million.

Quotes attributable to Mayor Karen Redman:

"This is a considered investment in an area of Gawler that's experiencing significant urban growth. The upgrade will support that growth and our reputation for being a great place to live as well as providing tangible benefits in physical and mental health for the hundreds of local men, women and children from across Gawler and the wider region that comes from being part of a team and getting involved in community sport."

Quote attributable to Acting CEO Andrew Goodsell

"The masterplan for Karbeethan Reserve is a long-term, 10-year project, that is being brought to fruition in workable stages. With the recently announced purchase of two adjoining allotments to allow for future expansion of the reserve, this was made possible with a contribution from the State Government's Open Space Grant Program financed through the Planning and Development Fund.

Quotes attributable to President of Gawler Rangers Baseball Club, Shane Murray:



“The club started in 2007 and has been mainly located at Karbeethan through most of its history, with members appreciative of the work Gawler Council has undertaken with the new fields, to make it possible for the Rangers to gain division one status.”

Quotes attributable to Joe Ridenti, President, Gawler Eagles FC

“We are excited to see Karbeethan Reserve develop into a modern sporting facility where local football players of all ages will benefit enjoying the World Game. We are appreciative of the Town of Gawler for its support and foresight as we look forward to representing our great Gawler community for many years to come.”

Quotes attributable to Terry Frangakis, Senior Coach, Gawler Eagles FC

“As the new Senior Coach, player facilities are a high priority and we love our new senior pitch. With new changerooms around the corner, our senior and junior teams will respond positively both on and off the pitch.”

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The media may make contact with Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359