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DRAFT ESSEX PARK & GAWLER SHOWGROUNDS REGIONAL SPORTING PRECINCT MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council are pleased to invite the community to share their views on the Draft Essex Park & Gawler Showgrounds Regional Sporting Precinct Master Plan.

The 37 hectare site in the heart of Gawler runs parallel with the North Para River from the Gawler Aquatic Centre; encompassing the homes of longstanding Gawler sporting organisations - the Gawler Amateur Swimming Club, Gawler & District Tennis Association, Gawler Bowling Club, Gawler Petanque Club, and the Gawler & District Netball Association. The precinct continues across the Adelaide to Gawler railway line with the Gawler Showgrounds on the banks of the South Para River - home of the Gawler Show, Gawler Central Sporting Club, Gawler Greyhound Club, Para Homing Pigeon Club, Gawler Sport & Community Centre and numerous community events.

In 2019, Council engaged consultants JPE, collaborating with InsideEdge, to undertake the development of a Master Plan for this key regional sporting and recreation precinct. Initial consultation with key community stakeholders and users of the precinct has informed the development of the draft plan now being released for broad community consultation.

Key considerations in the development of the Plan have been:

- how the various sporting clubs and community organisations utilise the precinct;
- what works well;
- what issues the site currently has for use by sporting clubs and community organisations;
- key priorities and opportunities for future precinct improvements;
- sport growth projections;
- improved connectivity within and through the precinct; and
- providing increased opportunity for broader community use for unstructured recreation and activity.

The development of the Essex Park & Gawler Showgrounds Regional Sporting Precinct Master Plan will provide strategic planning and direction for a highly utilised and significant regional community precinct. The Plan will also allow for clubs and associations to develop their own organisations and facilities in line with the strategic direction for the precinct. The development and implementation of the Master Plan will ultimately increase community participation in both active and passive sport and recreation. The project will provide direction to enable precinct facilities to accommodate population growth, and be adaptable and flexible to the changing needs of current and new community members.

Mayor Karen Redman said, "The Essex Park and Gawler Showgrounds Master Plan will help meet the growing need for sport, recreation, and events within the region. The precinct already caters for thousands of our community each and every week, as well as hosting major events such as the Gawler Show; the largest country show in South Australia."

Mayor Karen Redman continued, "Participating in physical activity and exercise is known to provide numerous positive health and wellbeing benefits and we strongly believe that with appropriate investment we can double the number of regular sporting and recreation participants utilising Essex Park, the Gawler Showgrounds, and the beautiful walking and cycling path."

The draft Essex Park & Gawler Showgrounds Master Plan is, due to its significant size and physical nature, segmented into five distinct planning areas:

- Essex Park & Aquatic Centre
- Hallam Drive



- Netball Association
- Princes Park & Gawler Showgrounds
- Gawler Oval

The Plan presents facility and site upgrade projects for the five planning areas in two stages:

- First Steps – projects identified for priority implementation, nominally across the seven years following the finalisation of the Master Plan, and
- Moving Forwards – projects, in many cases incorporating significant infrastructure development, identified for future implementation, nominally beyond eight years following the finalisation of the Master Plan.

The suggested staging of the project is indicative only and will be flexible in delivery, subject to both changes in demand and availability of funding. The draft plan also provides an opportunity for sporting clubs and community groups to seek funding and invest in the future of their organisation and facilities within the footprint of the regional precinct.

Community members are invited to attend one of the following Drop-In Community Information Sessions to be held

- Gawler Civic Centre – Monday 18 January 2pm - 3pm
- Gawler Civic Centre – Thursday 21 January 10am - 11am
- Gawler Sport & Community Centre – Saturday 30 January 10am - Midday

“Council has undertaken extensive consultation with local sporting and community bodies and particularly with the users of Essex Park and the Gawler Showgrounds, to develop the draft Master Plan to the point where it is now ready to share with the broader community. I encourage everyone to have their say on this project which will shape this important major regional community hub over the next decade and beyond, improving the precinct quality and functionality while encouraging increased and broader community utilisation,” said Mayor Redman.

More information can be obtained online by visiting Your Voice Gawler or alternatively visiting Gawler Sport & Community Centre, Gawler Administration Centre, Gawler Public Library in the Civic Centre, Evanston Gardens Library, and the Gawler Aquatic Centre where the Essex Park & Gawler Showgrounds Regional Sporting Precinct Master Plan Maps and information will be on display.

Comments must be received by 5pm on Monday 8 February 2021.

Feedback regarding the draft Essex Park & Gawler Showgrounds Regional Sporting Precinct Master Plan can be submitted via the following methods:

- **Online** – below
- **Post** – PO Box 130 Gawler SA 5118
- **Over the counter** - Gawler Administration Centre, 43 High St, Gawler East
 - Gawler Public Library, Gawler Civic Centre, 89-91 Murray St, Gawler
 - Gawler Sport & Community Centre, Nixon Terrace, Gawler
- **E-mail** - essexshowgrounds@gawler.sa.gov.au

Connect with Gawler:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/townofgawler Twitter: www.twitter.com/townofgawler

Instagram: [@townofgawler](https://www.instagram.com/townofgawler) YouTube: www.youtube.com/townofgawler

Gawler Connected Community App – download now from Google Play/App Store



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