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Walker Place Redevelopment Project – Construction Works Commence

The Walker Place Redevelopment Project has reached an exciting milestone with Council awarding the contract to deliver the works to Blu-Built Pty Ltd and construction works commencing on 10 February 2020.

This project aims to realise the vision of the Gawler Central Urban Precinct by providing a unique public space for visitors and the community, connecting Murray Street, shopping areas and open spaces. Located in the heart of the Town Centre, it will be transformed to become a focal point for placemaking and community activities. The new Walker Place public space will have an integrated paved shared use space which:

- focuses on pedestrian access;
- facilitates lower vehicle speeds making it safer;
- reconfigures car parking spaces;
- implements an environmentally suitable landscaping;
- includes smart city technology; and
- allows for future community event activation.

“I’m really excited to see this project transform Walker Place and really deliver a high quality central hub to our Town Centre” said Mayor Redman.

Throughout the construction Walker Place will be ‘business as usual’ and footpaths adjoining businesses will stay open during business hours so that access while trading is maintained.

“Council has engaged with local businesses to understand their concerns about the possible impact to their business during the works. We have listened and we have pushed ourselves to be best practice in the way we minimise this project’s impacts on them,” said Mayor Redman. “Every effort has been made to ensure that access to businesses is maintained, noise impact is minimised, the visual amenity is managed, works are programmed and delivered efficiently to minimise impacts as far as possible”.

Walker Place will be closed to vehicle traffic until mid-2020. During this time vehicles will not be able to enter into Walker Place. Traffic management will be in place along Whitelaw Terrace, including speed restrictions. Council will be providing 10 car parking spaces dedicated to Walker Place customer parking only, as well as loading areas, on the adjoining Whitelaw Terrace to compensate for the temporary loss of parking on Walker Place during the works. Pedestrian traffic will be managed throughout the construction. The northern side of Walker Place, where the current business entrances exist, remaining open as the main pedestrian thoroughfare throughout the works.

The construction coincides with the upcoming Gawler Fringe activities, consequently these activities have moved to the Gawler Civic Centre in a different format from previous years. For more information about the Fringe please visit the Council’s website via <https://www.gawler.sa.gov.au/about-gawler/events-recognition/fringe>.

“The new shared space will be ideal for future Fringe and other community and cultural events,” said Mayor Redman. “Quality furniture, public art, communal spaces, natural shade, landscape amenity and permanent festive lighting will provide a unique ambience and atmosphere for the community while reflecting Gawler’s history and culture in a purpose built event space.”

“Council and its Contractor, Blu-Built, will continue to work with the businesses and the community to minimise the impacts of the construction works. We ask for everyone’s patience until the new Walker Place can be revealed mid-year,” said Mayor Redman.



The Walker Place Redevelopment is co-funded by the State Government's Places for People Grant Program. The State Government is contributing over \$1m towards the \$2.3m project that will upgrade Walker Place and parts of the surrounding Precinct, including the new public amenity block at Apex Park, and the restoration of the existing artwork Mural along Whitelaw Terrace, together with new landscaping.

"I would like to thank the State Government for partnering with the Town of Gawler to deliver on a part of our vision for the Town Centre," concluded Mayor Redman.

Further information on this project is available on Council's website at [www.gawler.sa.gov.au/Walker Place Redevelopment](http://www.gawler.sa.gov.au/WalkerPlaceRedevelopment)

Should community members have any specific enquiries they can be directed to the dedicated project email WalkerPlaceRedevelopment@gawler.sa.gov.au or via Council's Customer Service team on 8522 9211.

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