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## **Gawler Town Centre Community Facility Improvements – New Public Toilets Open at Apex Park and Martin’s Place**

Two new accessible public toilet facilities are now open in the Gawler Town Centre.

“These new facilities provide our community with modern public toilets that meet the current building standards, achieve a high standard of accessibility for our community, and are close to both the main shopping district as well as our premier parks along the South Para River,” Mayor Karen Redman said. “We listened to the community feedback about the need for more and better-quality public toilets and have worked hard through a difficult construction market, to meet the needs of many different people at two central locations”.

The new Apex Park public toilets have been constructed opposite the Apex Park playground. These new public toilet facilities include four (4) cubicles, specifically one unisex ambulant toilet, one unisex toilet, and two accessible unisex toilets as well as a baby change table in each accessible cubicle. The new toilets will be opened at 7am and closed at sunset, seven (7) days per week.

The new Martin’s Place public toilets have been constructed in the reserve area, opposite the Gawler Post Office. The Martin’s Place toilet facilities include three (3) cubicles, specifically one accessible unisex toilet with a baby change table, one unisex ambulant toilet, and a Changing Places facility. The accessible and ambulant toilets will be opened at 7am and closed at sunset, seven days per week. The Changing Places facility will be accessible at all times using an MLAK key which is available through the Master Locksmiths Association of Australia for people living with disability, their carers, assistants, and support workers. MLAK keys will also be available for loan through the Council’s Administration Centre, Gawler Civic Centre, and the Gawler Visitor Information Centre on proof of identity.

Changing Places is an advocate for the placement of public toilets facilities in public spaces across Australia to meet the needs of people living with complex disabilities. Changing Places toilets are widely recognised as an example of best practice to enable people living with disability to participate in society with more independence and dignity.

“The Changing Places facility at Martin’s Place will be the first public toilet facility of its kind in Gawler,” says Mayor Karen Redman. “Council is delighted to have received a \$100,000 grant from the South Australian Government’s Department for Human Services to contribute to building this facility. A facility which we are proud to acknowledge improves access to basic services in a dignified manner for all community members of Gawler, and our visitors, when out and about in our beautiful Town”.

A new landscaped public park has also been completed opposite Walker Place, in between the two new toilet blocks. This new ‘Mural Pocket Park’ creates a connection between Walker Place and the South Para River and is a beautiful new space for rest and reflection in the Town Centre. A steel sign in the Kaurna language acknowledges the cultural significance of the area with the English language translation of ‘When you tread, remember the Kaurna People. They are the traditional custodians of the land.’ The community made the 1990s ceramic mural that was on the old Julian Terrace toilet block in this location and it is still remembered through the installation of a high-resolution print of the mural while the original artwork is restored. Space has also been retained in the park to preserve the opportunity of new artwork in the future on the western side of the stone wall panels.

Council thanks the community for their patience while the new public toilet facilities were under construction.

“The past year or so has been one of the most difficult for delivering building and civil works projects across the State,” says Council CEO Henry Inat. “Whilst it’s been a challenging process, it is so pleasing the difference these new facilities will make to our Town Centre more accessible and community-friendly”



The public toilets and mural pocket park projects have been co-funded through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, and the South Australian Government's Open Space Grant Program, and Changing Places Program. Council thanks its funding partners for contributing to the improvement of public infrastructure in the Town Centre.

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