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Local Heritage Transition DPA

As a consequence of significant changes proposed by the State Government via the impending Planning and Design Code, which could negatively impact on the preservation of Gawler's unique heritage, the Council has recently undertaken a comprehensive heritage survey of all existing Contributory Items listed within its Development Plan.

Under the new planning system, only State and Local Heritage Places will be specifically recognised; Contributory Items will no longer be identified.

Mayor Redman advises that "Council has been advocating for Contributory Items to be specifically recognised in the new Planning and Design Code, as they play a vital role in reflecting the historic character as they form part of a cohesive group of buildings and demonstrate a defining period in Gawler's history".

The intention of this heritage survey was to review all existing 604 Contributory Items listed in the Gawler Development Plan and to transition some of these items to Local Heritage Places if and where appropriate, via a Development Plan Amendment.

"It is critical that any building which meets the defined criteria for a Local Heritage Place is accurately referenced so that the appropriate level of protection can be provided to ensure its ongoing preservation," said Mayor Redman.

"At its Special Meeting on Thursday 19th March 2020, Council considered and adopted a Statement of Intent, which identified 150 Contributory Items as meeting the criteria for a Local Heritage Place, and that Council is now keen to reach agreement with the Minister for Planning to commence a Development Plan Amendment in order to formally recognise the importance of these buildings in Gawler's History" said Mayor Redman.

If the Minister for Planning endorses Council's Local Heritage Development Plan Amendment Statement of Intent, staff will then proceed with the preparation of a Development Plan Amendment, outlining the full extent of Contributory Items proposed to be converted to Local Heritage Places in order to undertake a statutory 8 week public consultation period.

"Council remains committed to ensuring the town's rich historic fabric and cultural heritage, depicted through its built form, is preserved as part of the transition to the State Government's new Planning and Design Code. The elevation of these items to Local Heritage Places is, we believe, vitally important to the retention of Gawler's historic character," said Council CEO Mr Henry Inat.

If the Minister for Planning endorses Council's Local Heritage Development Plan Amendment Statement of Intent, consultation on a Development Plan Amendment will likely commence as soon as possible. As part of this process Council will be writing to all directly affected land owners to advise them of this consultation process. Council will then consider the outcomes of the consultation process, amend the listings where considered necessary, and forward to the Minister for Planning for final authorisation later in the year.

Mayor Redman concludes by saying, "Gawler is unique in the high quality and extent of its built heritage, which is something to be very proud of. As custodians of this heritage stock, we have a responsibility to ensure we preserve this legacy for generations to come. As one of the fastest growing areas in the State, our heritage and character suburbs are a key attractor for families wanting a beautiful relaxed lifestyle in town with strong community values. We will continue to be strong advocates for the protection of our heritage as we transition to the new planning and design code."



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