

# GAWLER **COMMUNITY** **PLAN** 2030+

Town of Gawler is  
a liveable, cohesive,  
active, innovative and  
sustainable community



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Town of Gawler acknowledges this land we meet on today is the traditional lands for the Kaurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country.

We also acknowledge the Kaurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.

## Acknowledgment in Kaurna language

Kadlitiyarlu tampinhi yalaka ngadlu Kaurna yartangka inparrinhi. Ngadludlu tampinhi, parnaku tuwila yartangka. Kaurna Miyurna yailtya yarta-mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku, parnaku yailtya, parnaku tapa puru purruna.

Kaurna Miyurna ithu yailtya purruna, yarta kuma puru martinhi, puru warri-apinhi, puru tangka martulayinhi.

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## VISION



Town of Gawler is a liveable, cohesive, active, innovative and sustainable community.

## MISSION



The Town of Gawler is committed to fostering a liveable urban environment, taking advantage of the area's natural beauty and accessibility to both Adelaide and the Barossa Valley. We enjoy a cohesive and active local community which Council is proud to support. Moving forward, the Town of Gawler recognises the serious impacts associated with Climate Change on our environment and are committed to more sustainable practices and enduring innovation in this regard.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The Community Plan 2030+ is the Town of Gawler's highest level strategic document. Formulated at a time when we are confronted by a number of complex local and global challenges, particularly COVID-19, it is crucial that we have a truly coordinated approach moving forward. This latest variation of the Community Plan is particularly exciting as we work towards the year 2030 and beyond.

Gawler is a growing township with a vibrant community that truly values the lifestyle this area affords as well as the Town's unique history and the local environment.

The Community Plan 2030+ provides direction for how we continue to deliver our vision – 'Town of Gawler is a liveable, cohesive, active, innovative and sustainable community'.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed through the consultation periods. It's our community's collective effort that provides us with the information and vision needed to produce documents like the Community Plan.

As Mayor of the Town of Gawler I look forward to working alongside you all in achieving the goals and objectives in this plan and further strengthening our local community as we work towards the year 2030.

**Karen Redman**  
Mayor





# INTRODUCTION

In October 2019 the Town of Gawler commenced a review of its Community Plan 2017-2027. Councils are obligated under the *Local Government Act 1999* to review their Community Plan within 2 years of a general election of Council. Nevertheless Council are always enthusiastic about reviewing and updating our Community Plan to ensure this important document remains a true reflection of community sentiment. The need to think strategically and creatively into the future is no more pressing now than before given the COVID-19 crisis as we rebuild and embrace future opportunity.

Through the development of the Community Plan 2030+ the Town of Gawler has been committed to empowering its citizens by engaging through an inclusive and dynamic consultation process which has ensured that the vision outlined in the Community Plan is based on credible information.

Community consultation is an essential part of this process and always at the centre of each review. Due to the unprecedented times we find ourselves in due to COVID-19, Council have focused an increase amount of energy into online platforms when engaging on the plan. Although traditionally face to face consultation may have played a greater role in the process, community buy in has been fantastic and very encouraging. As a result Council is confident that this process and the new plan been produced is a true reflection of our community's ambitions.

The five pillars (themes) **'Identity, Growth, Environment, Community and Leadership'** have continued to guide the Community Plan and remained steadfast with this iteration. These pillars persist to be pertinent with the community's vision for the future.



# OUR PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Local Government Act 1999 requires The Town of Gawler to develop and enact numerous plans for the management of its council area. Through the development and implementation of these plans Council must assess its financial sustainability, level of service delivery, provision of infrastructure and any anticipated demographic or developmental change.

Whilst *Section 122* of the *Local Government Act 1999* requires the development of a number of Strategic Management Plans, it has proven instrumental for councils to prepare an overarching plan. The Gawler Community Plan 2030+ is the document that holistically guides the future allocation of resources for the type and standard of infrastructure and service provided to the community by Council.

The Community Plan has been developed locally, however a broader regional and state context is present. The Community Plan must also contribute to the realisation of the strategies and objectives outlined in the South Australian Government's Strategic Plan.

To ensure the vision described in the Gawler Community Plan 2030+ is ultimately achieved at a local level, its goals, objectives and strategies need to cascade down and be reflected in all Council plans by way of actions, responsibilities and performance measures.

The Town of Gawler's Annual Report is one formal mechanism used to report back to the community on an annual basis the progress against the goals, objectives, strategies, actions and performance measures of the Community Plan.

The Council is also developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan. This plan will permeate through all of Council's strategic documents as we seek to act meaningfully on this very real and pressing matter.

COMMUNITY PLAN 2030+

LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

LONG TERM INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

DIVISIONAL BUSINESS PLANS

ANNUAL REPORT

...AND SO MUCH MORE



# OUR TOWN

## GEOGRAPHY

Gawler is located 42 kilometres north of Adelaide at the edge of the metropolitan area and identifies itself as a separate township from Adelaide, acting as a key regional hub for communities to the north of Adelaide and the lower mid north.

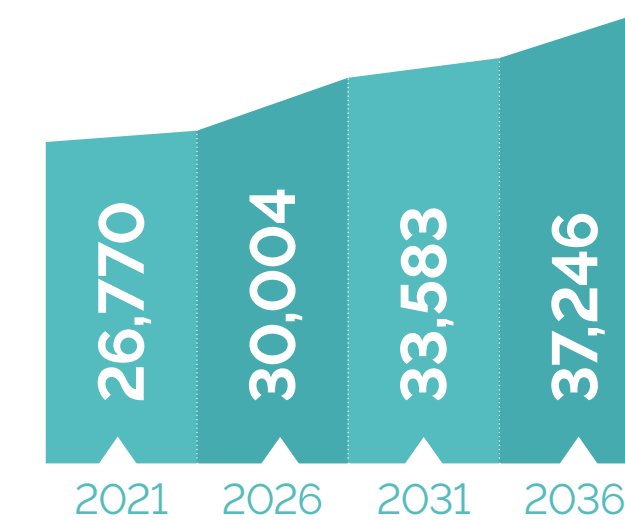
It covers 41 square kilometres and includes the areas of Evanston, Evanston Gardens, Evanston Park, Evanston South, Gawler, Gawler East, Gawler South, Gawler West, Hillier, Kudla, Reid, Uleybury (part) and Willaston.



## POPULATION

The population of Gawler as recorded in the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census (ABS) increased from 20,536 in 2011 to 23,034. This growth represents a population increase in excess of 12% through this period. This increase in population is significantly higher than the growth experienced by the State of South Australia which grew by approximately 5% over the same period.

In December 2019 the Department of Planning transport (DPTI) and Infrastructure released revised population projections. These projections predict Gawler to grow by a further 14,212 residents over the next 16 years.



PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH  
FOR THE TOWN OF GAWLER

In addition there are over 4,000 people who live on Council's immediate boundaries and form part of the greater Gawler community, however these residents and businesses are not within Council's formal boundary.

Furthermore the proposed development of Concordia located in the Barossa Council, will also naturally form part of the Gawler Township. When completed this development will have the capacity to essentially double the existing population of our town.



## DEMOGRAPHICS

Gawler has a slightly greater number of citizens aged between 0-19 and over 65 than South Australia. Almost a quarter of Gawler's population is under 20 (24.1), which is higher than South Australia (23.5%) but lower than that of Australia (24.8%).

In addition, 46.5% of Gawler's population is over 45, which is higher than South Australia (44.6%) and Australia (40.9%).

Gawler has a lower proportion of citizens aged between 20-44 years old at 29.5%, compared to South Australia at 31.9% and 34.6% Australia wide.

## EMPLOYMENT

Gawler has a relatively high employment participation rate. The major industry employer is Retail Trade (26%) followed by Health and Community Services (16%), Education (11%), Cultural and Recreational Services (3%), Personal and Other Services (5%) and Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants (6%).

A significant percentage of Gawler citizens work outside of the council area and many people working in Gawler live outside the council area. Since the last census, "Many of these people come to Gawler on a daily basis for employment, education, healthcare and a range of retail services".



## REGIONAL CONTEXT

The State Government (DPTI) last updated the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide in 2017. As per the original version the updated version seeks to shift further away from Greenfield development over the next three decades, with Greater Adelaide meeting its previous target of 70% of new residential development occurring within infill areas and 30% occurring in Greenfield periphery or more rural areas.

It is however worth noting that Gawler East, Evanston Gardens, Roseworthy, Concordia and numerous areas within Northern Adelaide are still all shown as significant Greenfield development areas to assist in accommodating Greater Adelaide's future population.

The role Gawler Township plays as a regional hub servicing communities north of Adelaide is widely acknowledged, with the town currently servicing a catchment of an estimated 120,000 people, with this figure expected to grow considerably. It is anticipated that Gawler will continue to act as a regional hub into the future and this is a major consideration for The Town of Gawler in terms of service delivery and infrastructure provision.

This regional service centre function is acknowledged by both state and federal governments through the ongoing provision of appropriate levels of infrastructure and service support as well as through Council having access to key regional funding programs.



# OUR HISTORY

The Kurna people are the traditional custodians of Adelaide and the Adelaide Plains, including the land that is now the Town of Gawler. The Kurna cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today. For more than 40 000 years the Kurna people have occupied the land of the Adelaide and Adelaide Plains region.

Linked by a spiritual connection to the land, Kurna knowledge and history has been handed from generation to generation through Songlines; intricate maps of land, sea and country that describe travel and trade routes, the location of waterholes and the presence of food.

Teaching young people was, and still is, a central part of Kurna life. Understanding the environment was important for more than just food, shelter, tools and medicine. Kurna spirituality recognises the connectedness of people and culture through plants, animals and stars.

The Town of Gawler encompasses numerous areas of significance for Aboriginal people past and present, most notably its three rivers – the North and South Para

Rivers and the Gawler River. Parridla Taikondi Park, the river junction, was used as a place for meeting and trading of commodities such as ochre, plant and animal products. The rivers flowing through Gawler provided the Kurna people with many resources.

The Kurna language is the original language of Adelaide and the Adelaide Plains. Kurna people from the Gawler district spoke a different dialect from those in other districts. The Kurna language was sophisticated and complex and reflected the extensive knowledge of the environment that the Kurna people possess. The word 'Para' is derived from the Kurna word 'Pari' meaning a stream of flowing water. From around 1920 until the 1990s the Kurna language went into hibernation, though fortunately, in recent times, the language has undergone a remarkable recovery.

In 1837 Colonel William Light, Surveyor General for the new Colony of South Australia camped twice in a local area that became known as 'Dead Mans Pass' on the South Para River. During his exploration of the Barossa Valley Light recognised the potential of the location, for South Australia's first country township. Light's subsequent plan for Gawler included streets aligned with town topography and broad parklands on the major river floodplains, reflecting his design of Adelaide.

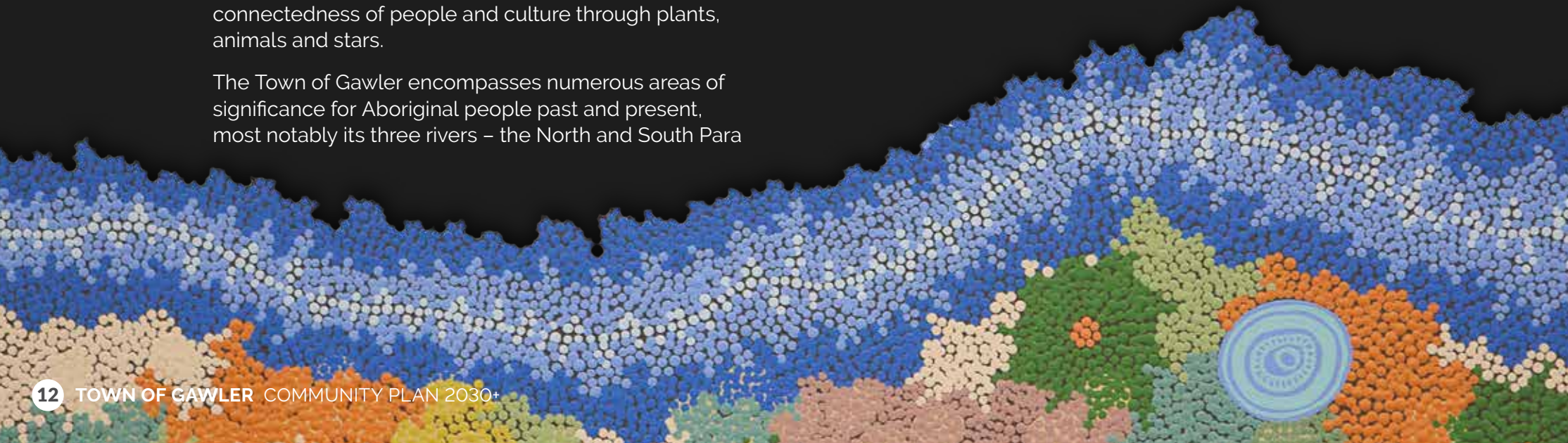
2020 marks 181 years since the settlement of Gawler, with the first European settlers arriving in February 1839. The Municipality of the Town of Gawler was proclaimed in July 1857. The town's history is closely aligned with that of the State, with Gawler becoming a regional hub for the surrounding farming communities and playing an important role in supporting the copper mining communities located in Kapunda and Burra.

In the second half of the 19th century Gawler boomed with the construction of public infrastructure such as rail and tramways, bridges, public baths, an Institute

and a Town Hall as well as the establishment and expansion of many industries such as flour mills, foundries, brickworks, manufacturing and retail outlets. Many of the buildings constructed during this period remain standing and provide Gawler with a unique and distinctive character.

Gawler was and continues to be a major regional and cultural centre for communities to the north of Adelaide including the nearby agricultural and horticultural communities located in the mid-north, northern Adelaide Plains and Barossa Valley.

Gawler continues to celebrate its history with the redevelopment of the Gawler Civic Centre. Officially opened on Sunday 7 April 2019, the primary purpose of the Gawler Civic Centre is to revitalise and redevelop existing Main Street, community buildings that will drive economic growth, create new jobs and strengthen the social and cultural base of Gawler and the broader region.





# OUR IDENTITY

## OUR IDENTITY



Gawler has a long history and rich heritage beginning with the Kurna people, who are recognised as the Town's original custodians.

Following European settlement the Town of Gawler as we know it today was surveyed by Colonel William Light and became South Australia's first regional settlement. Gawler's community remains steadfast in its desire to protect and reinforce its unique character and sense of community.

Gawler's rich history is evident through its built and natural form including its striking architecture, heritage collections, natural riverine environments, large areas of open space and traditional 'mainstreet'.

Today the local community benefits from its surrounds and this rich history is personified through many community events and festivals.

Over the past 181 years, Gawler's has grown considerably and this trend is expected to continue, with latest projections forecasting population growth at more than twice the state average.

To enable our future community to experience Gawler's unique sense of identity, this Community Plan will seek to preserve not only what has contributed to Gawler's identity but will create an evolving character and distinctive sense of place.



## GOAL 1

### A Uniquely Identifiable Township

#### 1.1 Gawler remains unique and distinct from its neighbouring areas.

- 1.1.1 Continue to develop town planning policies which promote Gawler as a Regional Hub and maintain a real sense of distinction from its surrounding areas.
- 1.1.2 Safeguard views and vistas to retain Gawler's defined township identity, open landscape character and sense of arrival into Gawler from all directions through the provision of open space.
- 1.1.3 Promote local government boundary realignments to reflect the township of Gawler's population with communities of interest.

#### 1.2 Foster a vibrant and active local community that is proud of Gawler

- 1.2.1 Champion the activation of key civic buildings and areas within the public realm, creating attractive destinations.
- 1.2.2 Encourage and promote our welcoming country-friendly community.
- 1.2.3 Develop areas of planted visual amenity that complement Gawler's country town appeal.
- 1.2.4 Develop a vibrant township which is reinforced by its historic character and variety of readily accessible parks, shops, services, sports, events and entertainment.
- 1.2.5 Strengthen the position and promotion of Gawler as a regional hub.
- 1.2.6 Build community capacity through leadership and support that responds to community needs.
- 1.2.7 Maintain local amenity through an adequate maintenance and cleaning regime.

#### 1.3 Protect and promote Gawler's unique history

- 1.3.1 Promote respect for the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the Kaurna Plains and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the community, their heritage, culture and beliefs.
- 1.3.2 Facilitate community understanding of the significance of the three rivers to the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians.
- 1.3.3 Be a community leader in promoting Reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Australians.
- 1.3.4 Celebrate and promote the national significance of Gawler's heritage.
- 1.3.5 Encourage the adaptive reuse, of heritage buildings to contribute to economic revitalisation and heritage conservation.
- 1.3.6 Further identify, conserve and enhance Gawler's historic character and unique architecture.

## KEY ACTIONS ► OUR IDENTITY

### 1 BOUNDARY REALIGNMENT

Boundary reform could mean that the footprint of Gawler will realign to include adjacent areas that are already seen as part of the Gawler community and already utilise our services and infrastructure. It will formalise communities where there is already a natural association with our town.

### 2 RURAL AREAS INVESTIGATIONS

Council will continue investigations to support a potential Planning and Design Code Amendment to align policy with Council's vision.

### 3 LOCAL AND STATE HERITAGE

The Town of Gawler is undertaking a heritage survey of all existing Contributory Items listed within the Development Plan with the intention to transition some of these structures to Local Heritage Places if and where appropriate. The intent being to ensure the protection of such places into the future.

### 4 PUBLIC REALM UPGRADES

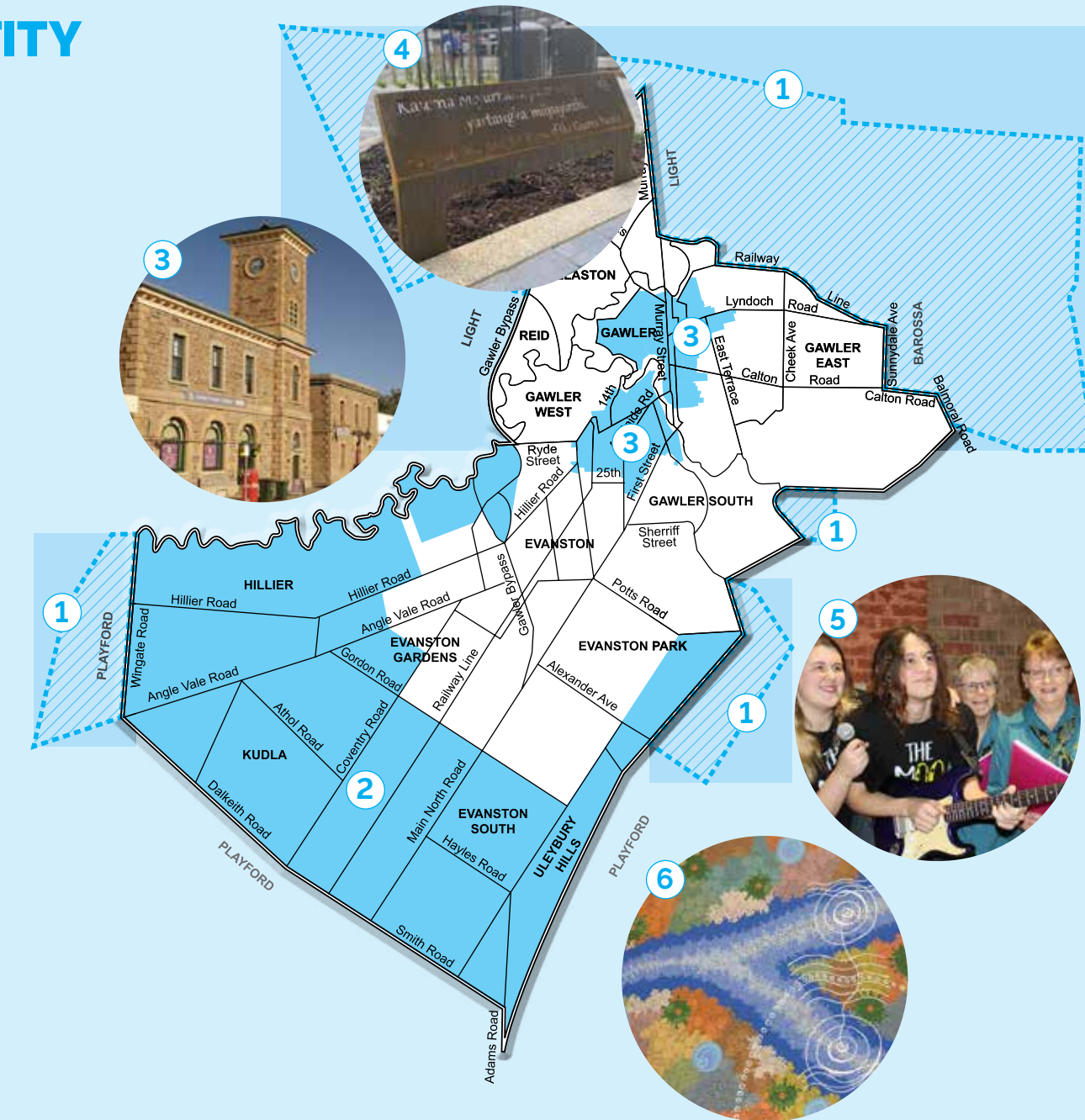
Upgrading the public realm is a high priority for Council, upgrades to provide the community and visitors with an improved experience which seeks to create for place making and community activities.

### 5 ACTIVATION STRATEGY

Through this strategy Council will focus on activating designated spaces through events and activity which celebrate Gawler's culture and diversity while delivering the community benefits of broad community participation, inclusion and collaboration.

### 6 RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

The Town of Gawler's vision for reconciliation is about building respect, understanding and dialogue between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, with a focus on creating environments and experiences where interactions and meaningful relationships can occur.





# OUR GROWTH

## OUR GROWTH



Enable growth to occur in a sustainable and integrated manner with a holistic approach to town planning, ensuring that development is coordinated in a supportable manner across the council area. It is important to recognise that many planning decisions are currently outside the control of the Town of Gawler Council.

Actively pursuing the Vision in this Community Plan is essential to maximise the ability of the Gawler community and Council to manage its destiny.

As a result of anticipated population growth over the next 15-25 years, the demand for additional infrastructure and augmented community services will rise significantly.

This will place pressure on Gawler's natural and built environments as well as its sense of identity.

The Town of Gawler is committed to working with the community, Natural Resources agencies, State and Local Government, the private sector, Non-Government Organisations and emergency services to develop policies and undertake initiatives to ensure these elements are preserved and our impact on the natural environment is minimised.



## GOAL 2

## Managed and Sustainable Growth

### 2.1 Physical and social infrastructure to service our growing population and economy

- 2.1.1 Aim for an adequate supply of well-located and affordable industrial, commercial and residential land.
- 2.1.2 Provide clear strategic direction in response to transport and traffic management measures in new growth areas and ensure integration with existing areas.
- 2.1.3 Support the timely provision of community, social and recreational facilities and services to meet community expectations and where appropriate seek financial contributions from other potential contributors.
- 2.1.4 Refine and develop land use policies to build attractive, accessible, integrated and resident-friendly areas, supporting a range of housing, lifestyles, recreation and rural opportunities.
- 2.1.5 Ensure council owned infrastructure is managed and maintained in a sustainable manner to provide a quality experience for our community.
- 2.1.6 Ensure neighbourhoods and residential developments have appropriately designed areas for play and leisure.

### 2.2 Growth to be sustainable and respectful of cultural and built heritage

- 2.2.1 Implement planning policies to protect Gawler's heritage and character with flexibility to encourage investment, building maintenance, adaptive re-use and appropriate infill development.
- 2.2.2 Ensure new development reinforces local character.
- 2.2.3 Encourage infill and development opportunities, including multi-storey, mixed-use developments in appropriate locations.
- 2.2.4 Seek appropriate land use policy in the existing Rural Zone to provide surety to residents, guide development and encourage investment.

### 2.3 Manage growth through the real connection of people and places

- 2.3.1 Encourage the appropriate redevelopment of all train station precincts and associate infrastructure.
- 2.3.2 Plan for the associated growth and renewal which is anticipated to occur along the rail corridor and around station precincts to take advantage of the significant State Government investment.
- 2.3.3 Continue to implement and develop a safe and interconnected network of cycle/walking paths along with appropriate wayfinding signage to and intra Gawler.
- 2.3.4 Design and develop pedestrian-friendly areas.
- 2.3.5 Seek to minimise traffic congestion through the Town Centre.
- 2.3.6 Improve management of Town Centre car parking provision to optimise availability in high demand areas.

### 2.4 Local economic activity to create local job opportunities and generate increased local wealth

- 2.4.1 Investigate opportunities for tourism and continue to support investment in tourist accommodation, leveraging Gawler's geographical location relative to the world renowned Barossa Valley.
- 2.4.2 Engage with the business community to attract business and job opportunities and promote Gawler as a regional hub.
- 2.4.3 Take advantage of state and federal government initiatives that create local and regional jobs, and more flexible work from home opportunities in a post COVID-19 business environment.
- 2.4.4 Support existing education providers and encourage additional opportunities and facilities in Gawler.
- 2.4.5 Support entrepreneurship, investment and job creation through the Gawler Civic Centre's Business Innovation Hub.

## KEY ACTIONS ► OUR GROWTH

### 1 GAWLER EAST

The Gawler East area was rezoned via a Ministerial Development Plan Amendment in 2010. This is a significant growth area within Gawler, with capacity to accommodate approximately 4,500 allotments. The orderly development and timely provision of infrastructure is critical to the success of the precinct.

### 2 TIVER ROAD EXTENSION

The Gawler East Link Road (GELR) will provide local traffic with direct access to Main North Road without the need for travelling through the Gawler Town Centre. An extension of the GELR to Tiver Road is envisaged to occur to further reduce congestion.

### 3 SOUTHERN URBAN AREAS

The urban growth area commonly known as the Southern Urban Areas includes parts of Evanston South, Evanston Gardens and Hillier. This is a significant growth area within Gawler, with capacity to accommodate approximately 2,500 allotments. The orderly development and timely provision of infrastructure is critical to the success of the area.

### 4 WATER PROOFING GAWLER

As part of a Water Proofing Gawler initiative, the Council will seek to not only investigate the delivery of a broader stormwater harvesting and reuse scheme throughout the Township for use on irrigated public open spaces, but also advocate for the State Government driven future Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme (NAIS) extension to consider the servicing of the rural areas of Gawler.

### 5 CONCORDIA

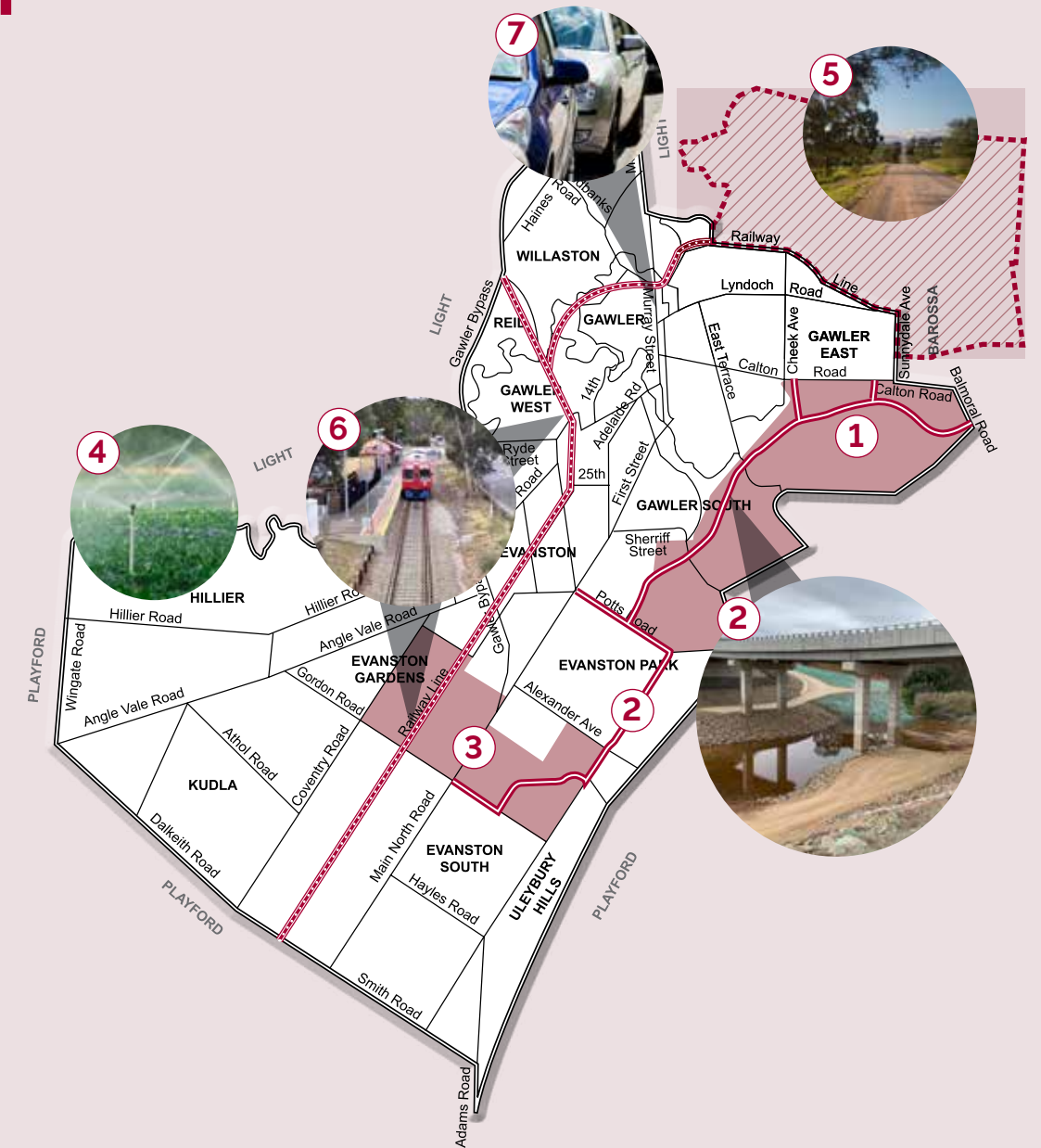
The Concordia Growth Area is one of the most significant (unzoned) metropolitan fringe/township growth areas defined in the State Government's 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide 2017. This growth area is approximately 978 hectares in size and is anticipated to yield up to 10,500 allotments and a population of approximately 23,000 people. This growth will form part of Gawler and needs to be managed by the Town of Gawler.

### 6 ELECTRIFICATION OF THE GAWLER RAIL LINE

The \$615 million electrification and modernisation of the Gawler rail line will deliver a faster, cleaner and more reliable service, delivering an electrified network through Adelaide from Gawler to Seaford. The electrified rail line is expected to further stimulate growth and regeneration in Gawler and planning for this growth will be imperative for Council.

### 7 TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKING

Council will be focussed on the ongoing management of existing car parking, as well as identifying opportunities which Council can work towards addressing.







# OUR COMMUNITY

## OUR COMMUNITY



Community health and social wellbeing is a fundamental and ongoing responsibility for The Town of Gawler. A vibrant town centre, pedestrian and cycle connectivity, all age friendly neighbourhoods, new and upgraded sport and recreation facilities and improved healthcare services have been identified by the community as essential.

Gawler has a growing number of older citizens however is also home to many children and young people. Council is committed to supporting residents of all ages and fostering our collective skills and abilities. Planning will need to continue to address issues associated with the availability of appropriate housing, access to social and allied health services and access to community programs and facilities.

Council plays a vital role in the provision and management of sport and recreational facilities and opportunities to the local and regional community. Recreation opportunities are provided across Gawler and take varied forms that suit the broad interests and desires of the community, including sporting and aquatic facilities, open space for both active and informal pursuits and natural spaces.

The role of volunteers, the arts as well as supporting community groups/services clubs which all play crucial roles within our community. Their contribution towards community development, growth and cohesion is overwhelming and as a result Council's support will remain steadfast.



## GOAL 3

## A Healthy, Active, Safe, Engaged Community

### 3.1 Gawler to be an inclusive community with quality health and social wellbeing services to meet the needs of our growing community

- 3.1.1 Advocate all spheres of government, the private sector and Non-Government Organisations for increased and improved healthcare facilities and social housing services, including services for mental health, the disadvantaged and homeless, aged care and people with disabilities.
- 3.1.2 Encourage healthy lifestyles and community wellbeing
- 3.1.3 Advocate for vulnerable members of the community and provide relevant services.
- 3.1.4 Improve disability access across the town and promote inclusion.
- 3.1.5 Provide a welcoming, relevant, accessible, and inclusive services that supports the lifelong learning needs of the community.
- 3.1.6 Provide a socially inclusive place to interact and access services, collections, programs and events that enhance the life and lifestyle of the community.

### 3.2 Provide sporting and recreational facilities to meet local and regional community needs

- 3.2.1 Ensure appropriate sporting and active recreation facilities are provided to the community and distributed equitably.
- 3.2.2 Ensure strategic planning and development of Gawler's sporting precincts.
- 3.2.3 Foster co-operative relationships between sporting organisations to co-invest and fully utilise infrastructure.

3.2.4 Ensure a range of usable open space and passive recreation facilities are provided for local and regional community needs.

3.2.5 Advocate to and liaise with all spheres of government, community and sporting bodies, Non-Government Organisations and the private sector to encourage shared resource and facility use opportunities for sport and recreation.

### 3.3 Recognise, respect, support and advocate on behalf of volunteers

- 3.3.1 Support and promote volunteering opportunities to meet community need.
- 3.3.2 Foster partnerships with volunteers and community volunteer organisations.

### 3.4 Encourage the development of the Arts and creative sector

- 3.4.1 Provide opportunities for local artists to be involved in and contribute to the activation of community spaces.
- 3.4.2 Activate urban and recreational spaces through appropriate public art management and encourage investment in the Arts by business, community and government.
- 3.4.3 Be a leader and advocate for the development of Public Art in Gawler, particularly through the implementation of Art and Culture strategic themes - Place, Activity and People.

## KEY ACTIONS ► OUR COMMUNITY

### 1 KARBEETHAN RESERVE

The Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan proposes new facilities that would provide for existing clubs and associations as well as 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.

### 2 GAWLER AQUATIC CENTRE

The Gawler Aquatic Centre Needs and Feasibility Analysis reinforces planning for this facility should continue to ensure the provision of a State of the Art facility for existing and future generations.

### 3 ESSEX PARK & GAWLER SHOWGROUNDS MASTER PLAN

The project will provide strategic direction to enable precinct facilities to accommodate population growth, be adaptable and flexible to the changing needs of current and new community members, and to enable Gawler to host high level sporting competitions and events.

### 4 DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Through the implementation of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, Gawler and the region more generally will seek to become more accessible for and inclusive of people living with a disability.

### 5 CYCLING AND WALKING CONNECTIONS

Via improved cycling and walking connection Councils wishes to enable people of all ages and abilities across the Town of Gawler to choose walking and/or cycling as a regular day-to-day activity for transport or recreation, and further promote the Town of Gawler as a unique, vibrant and accessible tourist destination.

### 6 OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION

Quality sport and recreation areas provide opportunity for social interaction between neighbours and help maintain safe and healthy communities. Parks and other areas of public open space allow for physical activity and recreation, which is proven to improve the mental and physical health. Providing and maintaining quality open spaces will remain a key priority for Council.





# OUR ENVIRONMENT

## OUR ENVIRONMENT



Gawler's projected population growth will place added pressure on the natural resources and the river's ecosystems. The community has recognised this and wants to protect these assets for future generations by endeavouring to mitigate the effects of climate change, population increase and development growth by improving local and regional water, waste and energy management practices.

Managing our natural resources in a sustainable manner and protecting areas of remnant vegetation for habitat and biodiversity conservation remains a priority for the community and for The Town of Gawler.

The Gawler Rivers are iconic and intrinsic features of the township with the North and South Para Rivers and Gawler River being recognised as areas of significant cultural importance to the Kaurna people.

The natural biodiversity values of these riverine areas are still adored by the entire community and enjoyed through active and passive activities on a daily basis.



## GOAL 4

## To Respect, Protect and Nurture the Environment

### 4.1 Act on climate change

- 4.1.1 Plan for a sustainable urban form to reduce the community's ecological footprint.
- 4.1.2 Develop adaptation and mitigation strategies for Council and the community to effectively respond to the impacts of climate change.
- 4.1.3 Develop and implement a Climate Emergency Action Plan which seeks to take effective, targeted and scalable actions towards climate change.
- 4.1.4 Limit urban sprawl, reduce car dependency and improve energy efficiencies and water conservation.
- 4.1.5 Develop and implement disaster resilience procedures to assist all members of the community in preparing for natural disasters.
- 4.1.6 Seek to mitigate the heat island effect within our township and improve our community's resilience to heat waves.

### 4.2 Create and maintain a riverine environment that reflects the social, cultural and landscape values of the river corridor

- 4.2.1 Manage open space along the three rivers corridors to provide improved use and greater visual appeal.
- 4.2.2 Conserve and enhance local biodiversity through appropriate landscaping.
- 4.2.3 Conserve areas identified as cultural sites along the river corridors.

### 4.3 Protection of environmentally significant areas of native vegetation for present and future generations

- 4.3.1 Ensure native flora, fauna and ecosystems are protected and restored through the retention and rehabilitation of environmentally significant areas of native vegetation.

- 4.3.2 Develop management plans for council-managed land and reserve areas including setting aside specific areas of open space for conservation purposes.
- 4.3.3 Effectively deal with feral birds and animals and over abundant native species.
- 4.3.4 Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership in order to reduce nuisance, social and environmental harm.

### 4.4 Support sustainable use of natural resources and minimise waste

- 4.4.1 Investigate affordable, appropriate and sustainable water for horticultural/agricultural purposes in Council's Rural Zone.
- 4.4.2 Generate a holistic approach towards dealing with and utilising stormwater.
- 4.4.3 Implement the waste management hierarchy – avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, treat and dispose.
- 4.4.4 Retain, protect and restore natural resources by ensuring development minimises energy consumption and water usage.
- 4.4.5 Identify flooding extents in the Town of Gawler and plan for mitigation measures as well as seek to integrate recycled water capabilities in existing and new growth areas.
- 4.4.6 Develop water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) requirements for the design, function and maintenance of open spaces.

### 4.5 Support the provision of useable public realm that preserves and enhances the environment and biodiversity

- 4.5.1 Develop a strategic approach to the management of trees in the Town which reinforces amenity, preserves identity, enhances our biodiversity and improves our climate resilience.
- 4.5.2 Continue to improve our natural landscapes by restoring and enhancing biodiversity as well as fostering habitat corridors.

## KEY ACTIONS ► OUR ENVIRONMENT

### 1 ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Town of Gawler was the first Council in South Australia to declare that we are facing a 'Climate Emergency'. Council recognises the importance of leading by example and will be developing an action plan to enhance our resilience and reduce Climate impacts.

### 2 GAWLER URBAN RIVERS REHABILITATION WORKS

Through rehabilitation works to Gawler's rivers corridors, Council is seeking to and will continue to improve the natural and built environment, improve biodiversity, promote community awareness and upgrade active and passive recreation opportunities.

### 3 BIODIVERSITY AND VEGETATION

The Town of Gawler has biodiversity assets that are considered to be significant including native species that predate European settlement. This makes our remnant habitats, flora and fauna critical to conserve and enhance. Furthermore Council's Tree and Vegetation Program aims to improve amenity, repair environmental damage and improve local biodiversity as well as ensure the region is more resilient to the effects of climate change.

### 4 STORMWATER

Implementation of the Gawler and Surrounds and Smith Creek Stormwater Management Plans will guide the management of the majority of stormwater runoff in the Town of Gawler and immediately beyond the Council's boundaries.

### 5 COMMUNITY SAFETY

Council is seeking to help residents and visitors feel safe in their local community by improving various passive surveillance measures. This includes the upgrading of public lighting as well as improved CCTV throughout Gawler. Such initiatives are key tools in supporting local businesses and communities and contributes to a perception of safety.





# OUR LEADERSHIP



## OUR LEADERSHIP



Council elected members are voted in by the community as leaders to advocate, advise, empower as well make informed decisions on their behalf with the community's best interests in mind.

Councillors provide the connection between Council and administration and the community. Council administration is responsible for the delivery of quality services, infrastructure and facilities to the community. This is achieved through the development of strategies, policies and budgets that reflect community needs, capacity and aspirations.

Community consultation remains a fundamental process which Council endeavours to spark conversation and empower the community. Effective and ongoing engagement with the Gawler community will ensure elected members are informed and able to represent their desires across projects which impact the community.

The Town of Gawler aspires is to be an organisation of excellence and one that is professional, transparent, prudent and credible to the local community and external organisations, key stakeholders and communities. This is achieved through sound governance processes and effective communication between the general and business community and the Council.





## GOAL 5

## A Strong, Vibrant Community

### 5.1 Be recognised as a best practice organisation and collaborate regionally

- 5.1.1 Provide professional services with a continuous improvement focus to proactively achieve the goals envisioned by our community.
- 5.1.2 Advocate for the needs, interests and aspirations of the community.
- 5.1.3 Position Council as a regional centre for excellence in local government.
- 5.1.4 Be an employer of choice, focusing on attracting and retaining quality staff.
- 5.1.5 Develop and implement strategies to encourage and empower all members of the community to participate in consultation activities as part of strategic decision making of Gawler's future.
- 5.1.6 Pursue the development of the local economy by ensuring that Council gives due consideration to local suppliers in its procurement activities.

### 5.2 Foster and encourage community teamwork

- 5.2.1 Encourage and facilitate opportunities for community interaction, connection and collaboration.
- 5.2.2 Value, support and advocate on behalf of community groups, organisations and volunteers.
- 5.2.3 Foster leadership opportunities that support and develop passionate and effective community leaders.
- 5.2.4 Support the establishment of scholarships/traineeships and mentoring programmes to support young future leaders.
- 5.2.5 Identify areas of community expertise, experience, capacity and interest to assist in the delivery of this Community Plan.

### 5.3 Continue to deliver effective services and refine management processes

- 5.3.1 Provide transparent, accountable and informed decision-making to assist in ensuring effective and efficient outcomes for the community.
- 5.3.2 Maintain and implement prudent financial policies and practices to ensure long term financial sustainability.
- 5.3.3 Provide quality support services to Council Members to facilitate effective and informed decision-making.
- 5.3.4 Provide a quality customer service experience which includes digital solutions that are efficient, reliable and add value for residents, businesses and visitors.
- 5.3.5 Implement and monitor health, safety and injury management services to achieve continual improvement and provide a safe work environment for all workers and volunteers.

## KEY ACTIONS ► OUR LEADERSHIP

### 1 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The key principle driving the preparation of annual budgets continues to be Council's core target of maintaining a financially sustainable operating position, whilst at the same time being cognisant of longer-term considerations and aspirations outlined in Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

### 2 GOVERNANCE

As a Local Government authority, the Town of Gawler is required to comply with numerous legal requirements. Strategies and policies are in place to ensure Council operates effectively and manages community resources and assets responsibly.

### 3 ADVOCACY

The Town of Gawler is experiencing substantial growth, this change brings with it a range of matters that impact on our community. Council plays a crucial role in helping to influence decision makers to support appropriate policy change and positive outcomes, as well as investment in our town. Strategic Advocacy is focused on achieving the longer term and substantive outcomes Council seeks.

### 4 CUSTOMER SERVICE

Council will seek to better serve our community through the delivery of high quality customer service and ultimately improve our Customer's Journey.

### 5 CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT

Continuous improvement is a key strategy of Council to ensure our procedures, methods, and practices are as efficient, accurate, and effective as possible. This is done by periodically examining and improving our processes to improve bottlenecks and take advantage of more efficient practices.







## COMMUNITY SCORECARD

An important new focus area for Council moving forward is better understanding business data and the analysis of such data to drive business process improvements and community outcomes, through the development of a Community Scorecard.

This Community Scorecard is currently under development, however once completed will be used both internally within Council and externally to the community by way of an on-line 'dashboard' to communicate how Council is performing against the goals and delivering the outcomes envisaged in the Community Plan.



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# Gawler



**Civic Centre  
Welcome**

Café  
Council Chamber  
Business Innovation Hub  
Institute  
Town Hall  
Library  
Youth Space  
Cultural Heritage Centre  
Function Rooms

## TOWN OF GAWLER

43 High Street, Gawler East SA 5118  
PO Box 130 Gawler SA 5118  
Tel: 08 8522 9211

Email: [council@gawler.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@gawler.sa.gov.au)  
[gawler.sa.gov.au](http://gawler.sa.gov.au)

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