

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

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Gawler



CONTENTS

Statement of Commitment to Aboriginal Australians3

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR4

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO5

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.....6

YOUR COUNCIL7

 Council Member Allowances 2020/20218

 Council Member Training and Development8

 Elector Representation8

 Public Participation at Meetings8

 Decision Making9

 Committee Structures.....10

 Other Council Committees.....11

 Confidential Items Considered12

 Corporate Governance15

 Role of Chief Executive Officer15

 Role of Council15

 Community Engagement15

 Risk Management.....15

 Auditor Remuneration.....16

 Senior Executive Officers Annual Remuneration.....16

 Internal Review of Council Decisions (Section 270).....16

 Freedom of Information16

 Freedom of Information Statement.....16

 Access to Council Documents16

 Registers.....16

 Codes and Policies17

 Community Land and Council Facilities.....17

CORPORATE REPORTING18

 Community Plan 2030+18

 Corporate Plan 2021 - 202519

 Annual Business Plans / Budget19

 Long Term Financial Plan19

 Competitive Tendering.....20

 National Competition Policy.....20

 Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan20

COMMUNITY PLAN21

 Our Identity22

 Our Growth30

 Our Community36

 Our Environment44

 Our Leadership.....50

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Attachment 1

NAWMA ANNUAL REPORT Attachment 2

GAWLER RIVER FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT Attachment 3



Reconciliation Action Plan document

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.

Kadlitiyarlu tampintheta yalaka ngadlu Kaurna yartangka inparrintheta. Ngadludlu tampintheta, parnaku tuwila yartangka. Kaurna Miyurna yaiya yarta-mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku, parnaku yailtya, parnaku tapa puru purruna. Kaurna Miyurna ithu yailtya purruna, yarta kuma puru martintheta, puru warri-apintheta, puru tangka martulayintheta.

Front page photograph:
Gawler Aquatic Centre

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Gawler East Link Road Interpretative Signage

I am delighted to provide this Annual Report to the community after what was an extremely rewarding year. Council's highest level strategic document, the Gawler Community Plan 2030+, was adopted by Council after extensive workshoping and community consultation. It acknowledges Identity, Growth, Community, Environment and Leadership as key pillars of performance, reflects the community's future aspirations for Gawler, and provides the fundamental vision for Gawler - a liveable, cohesive, active, innovative, and sustainable community.

A significant project with respect to Gawler's Identity is ensuring that the Town of Gawler Local Government Area is reflective of its communities of interest. After significant community consultation, Council embraced the opportunity to submit a case for boundary change to the South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission, so we can continue to provide an appropriate level of services and infrastructure to our residents, businesses, visitors, and community into the future.

Community and business recovery from the initial impact of the Coronavirus pandemic was a key focus for Council. A significant component of Council's 2020/21 Annual

Budget was the incorporation of a \$2 million Economic Stimulus Package in response to this issue as well as rate remissions (reductions) to those ratepayers, both business and residential, who had been significantly adversely financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council also gave a combined \$280,000 to local sporting and community organisations that lease its facilities to help them provide fit for purpose spaces for the local community. In addition, \$75,000 was provided to local community organisations to deliver community events and activation initiatives.

Council's continued investment in community infrastructure saw the Walker Place Redevelopment completed in August 2020. The award winning redevelopment has created a calming spot in the centre of our town to sit and relax, or have your interest piqued in Gawler's rich history through one of the Kaurna and historical quotes on display.

In October 2020, I officially opened the 58th season of Gawler Aquatic Centre and unveiled the \$960,000 upgrade that it received during the preceding off-season. The upgrade has delivered refurbished changerooms, disability compliant access

facilities, and an eye-catching entrance to this vital community facility. The 5.5km long Gawler East Link Road was also handed over to Council in October 2020.

Now named Schomburgk Drive and Mullamar Way, after two notable community members recognising their contributions to the Town of Gawler, the \$68 million road corridor provides a catalyst for future urban development in Gawler.

Developing areas for the benefit of existing and future communities is a key priority for Council and during 2020/21 we embarked on a significant master planning process for the Essex Park and Gawler Showgrounds Precinct. The Master Plan provides the conceptual layout to guide future growth and development of this heavily used Precinct.

Council continues to provide vision and leadership for its community and this Annual Report celebrates our achievements over the 2020/21 financial year. I thank all Council Members, Council Staff, and our dedicated volunteers for their ongoing contributions to our town.

Mayor
Karen Redman

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Fifth Street Playground

2020/21 started with various restrictions in place as we all dealt with the impact of COVID-19. Council's Staff Teams were split across multiple sites to ensure business and operational continuity during these unprecedented times.

Adoption of the 2020/21 Annual Budget and Business Plan was pushed back to August 2020 to ensure that Council had the opportunity to appropriately consider ways to assist the community and stimulate the local economy.

Council provided a funding pool of \$530,000 for targeted rate remissions (reductions) to those ratepayers who had been significantly adversely financially impacted by the pandemic.

The net total increase in General rate revenue from existing ratepayers was 0%, as the 2.4% increase applied was offset by the value of the General Rate remissions provided.

In addition, Council provided a \$2m Economic Stimulus package that included a series of projects and initiatives, designed towards local employment / local supplier outcomes, to help kick-start the local

economic recovery. Council continued to be proactive in seeking external funding to assist the delivery of its programs, services, and infrastructure. Council was successful in obtaining \$3,766,256 in project related grant funding. Full details of what this funding supports are provided within this Report and include roads, footpaths, playgrounds, and recreation facility development.

The financial year ended with an underlying operating surplus of \$233,000 with Council's key financial indicators being within Policy targets, demonstrating Council's strong financial position. Council delivered \$8.5 million in capital works during 2020/21, which is to be significantly increased to \$15.8 million in 2021/22.

As Gawler continues to grow there is an increase in the amount of new open space areas vested in Council for use by the community. The amount of this space grew by 10.64 hectares compared with the previous financial year.

The timing of handover of these new open space areas to Council was a focus during the year and will continue to be moving forward relative to annual budget planning.

Council once again provided a Hard Waste service for residents which was cost effective, maximised ratepayer benefits, and achieved sustainable outcomes. The hard waste management service reduces waste that ends up in landfill and promotes the importance of recycling or 'resource recovery'.

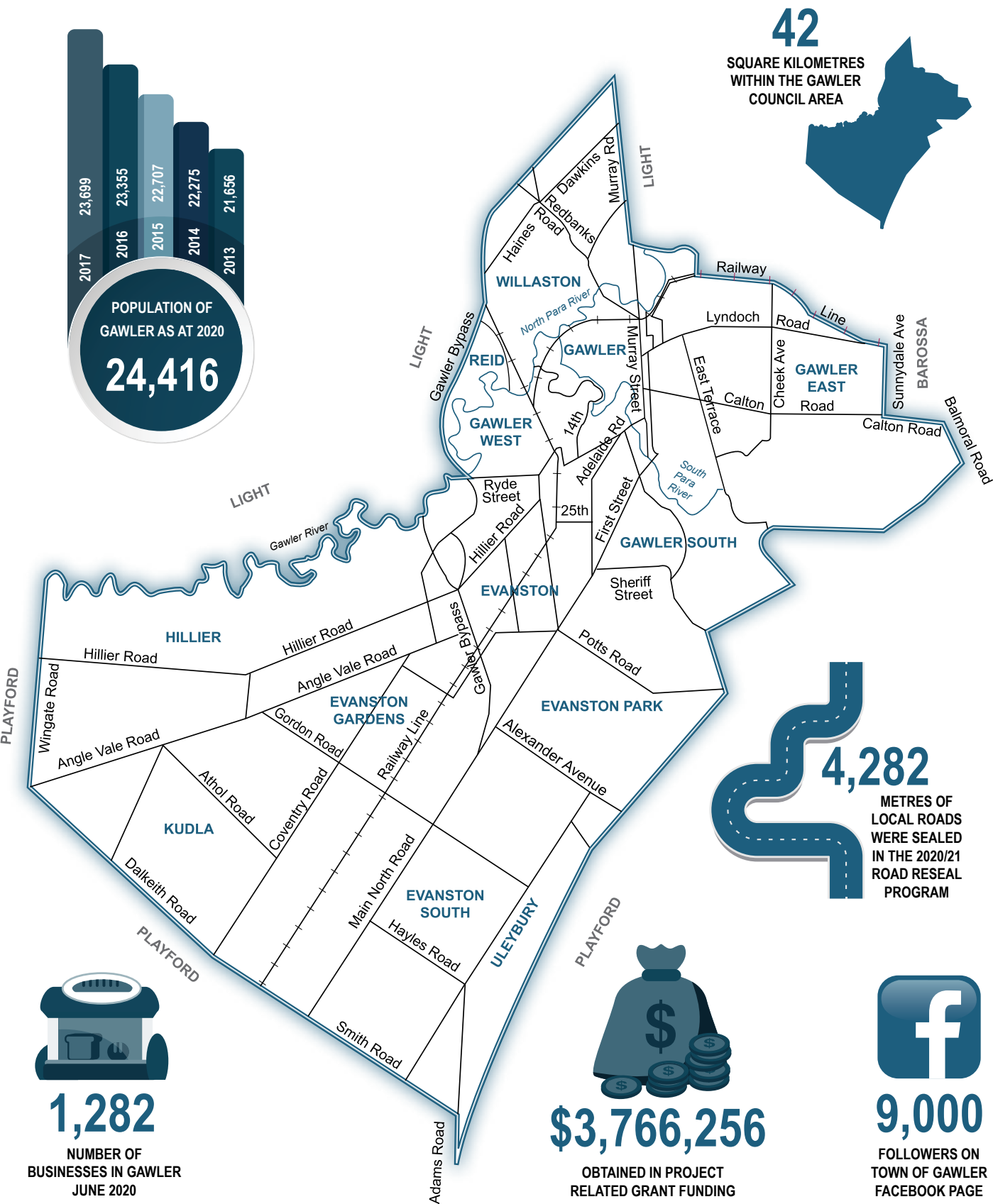
Council progressed several strategies and plans during the year including the Beautification Plan, Economic Development Strategy, Digital Marketing Strategy and Project Management Framework. These initiatives assist Council to develop its priorities and actions across the coming years that ultimately deliver on the Gawler Community Plan 2030+.

I would like to thank all Council Staff and Council Members for their continued dedication, hard work and commitment to delivering positive outcomes for the local community. I commend this Annual Report as a true and accurate record of Council's achievement and financial management position for the 2020/21 financial year.

CEO
Henry Inat

Established in 1839 Gawler is South Australia's first country town and the largest and most significant historic town.

Gawler is located 42 kilometres north of the Adelaide Central Business District and identifies itself as a separate township between the city and the country.



The Local Government Elections were held in November 2018, resulting in the Members below being elected.



Mayor Karen Redman



Cr Cody Davies



Cr Diane Fraser



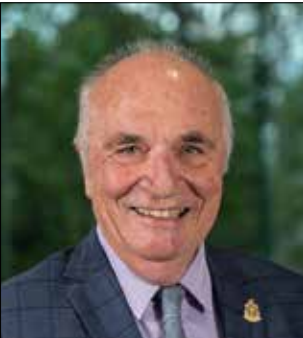
Cr Kelvin Goldstone



Cr David Hughes



Cr Paul Koch



Cr Paul Little



Cr Brian Sambell



Cr Nathan Shanks



Cr Ian Tooley



Cr Jim Vallelonga

COUNCIL MEMBER ALLOWANCES July 2020 - June 2021

Mayor.....	\$72,149
Deputy Mayor	\$20,978
Councillors.....	\$18,037

Audit Committee Independent Member Allowances

Chair (Independent Member) \$5,807 per annum
Independent Member \$4,223 per annum
Councillors sitting on this Committee receive no additional benefits or allowances

Council Development Assessment Panel Independent Member Allowances

Chair (Independent Member) \$425 per meeting
Independent Member \$325 per meeting
Councillors sitting on this Committee receive no additional benefits or allowances

COUNCIL MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

All Council Members completed mandatory training as required by the Local Government Act 1999, in December 2018 following the local government general election

Council Members attended a number of training and development activities during 2020/21, including the following

- Prevention and Management of Bullying/Harassment In or Out of the Chamber
- Public Speaking for Elected Members
- Representation Review
- Procurement

ELECTOR REPRESENTATION

Town of Gawler is represented by the Mayor and 10 Area Councillors.
Council’s total representation quota (the number of electors for each Councillor) is 1:1,694 (18,636 electors)
A comparative table below compares local and similar sized councils to Gawler, as at 28 February 2021

	Town of Gawler	The Barossa Council	Light Regional Council	City of Murray Bridge	City of Whyalla	City of Alexandrina
Electors	18636	18118	10545	14853	15618	21150
Councillors	11	12	11	10	10	12
Ratio	1694	1510	959	1485	1562	1763

(Information
supplied by
Local
Government
Association)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council and Committee meetings. Agendas of Council and Committee meetings are placed on public display no less than three days prior to meetings except for Special meetings. Minutes are available for viewing within five days of that meeting at Council’s Administration Office and on Council’s website www.gawler.sa.gov.au

Members of the public have many opportunities to express their views to Council on particular issues

1. **Staff Members** – Members of the public can contact Council staff to discuss any issue relevant to Council
2. **Council Members** – People can contact Members of the Council to discuss any issue relevant to Council
3. **Written Requests** – A member of the public can write to the Council regarding any Council policy, activity or service. Service requests can also be made via Council’s web site
4. **Public Open Forum** – is held at the commencement of each ordinary Council Meeting to encourage direct communication between the public and Council. There is a 20-minute open segment to make statements or ask questions. The time available is allocated to speakers on an equal basis with a maximum five minutes per speaker. Therefore, if five people want to participate, then a maximum of four minutes each will be allocated. The Mayor will ask for the names of people wishing to participate
5. **Petitions** – Written petitions (including letters of multiple signatories) can be addressed to the Council on any issue within the Council’s jurisdiction. The recommended petition format is published on Council’s website

6. **Deputations** – People wishing to appear at a meeting of Council, or Committee, must make a written request to the Chief Executive Officer, no later than two weeks prior to the meeting date. The request must include a summary of the deputation
7. Council also holds informal gatherings which unless otherwise specified are open for the public to attend
8. **Zoom/YouTube** – Each meeting of Council is live streamed via YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/user/TownofGawler>

DECISION MAKING

The *Local Government Act 1999* sets out the principal roles, functions and objective of Councils, with a principal role being ‘to act as a representative, informed and responsible decision maker in the interests of the community’. To assist the elected Council to discharge its responsibilities to the community it relies on the CEO and senior staff to guide policy formation, undertake day to day management of the Council and put into place the decision made by Council.

A delegation is the means by which a Council may authorise another person or body to exercise certain powers and functions. Delegation enables the Council to focus on policy and strategy and enables the day to day operations of the Council to be carried out by the Council’s administration.

Section 41 of the *Local Government Act 1999* enables Council to establish Committees to assist in the performance of its function. The role of a Committee is determined by Council and documented in a Terms of Reference. The following committees have been established by Council: CEO Performance Management Panel, Corporates and Community Services, Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee, Gawler Youth Advisory Committee, and the Gawler Heritage Collection Committee.

Council has also established a number of other Committees and subsidiaries in accordance with legislation as below:

- Audit Committee (Section 126 of the Local Government Act 1999)
- Council Assessment Panel (Section 82 and 83 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016)
- Building Fire Safety Committee (Section 157 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016)
- Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority (Section 43 under the Local Government Act 1999)
- Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority (Section 43 under the Local Government Act 1999)

The below working and advisory groups have also been established to assist council in a number of key function areas:

- Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group
- Elderly Centre Advisory Working Group
- Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Working Group

Section 126 of the *Local Government Act 1999* dictates that council must have an Audit Committee whose functions include:

- a. reviewing annual financial statements to ensure that they present fairly the state of affairs of the council; and
- b. proposing, and providing information relevant to, a review of the council’s strategic management plans or annual business plan; and
- c. proposing, and reviewing, the exercise of powers under section 130A; and
- d. liaising with the council’s auditor; and (c) reviewing the adequacy of the accounting, internal control, reporting and other financial management systems and practices of the council on a regular basis



Walker Place Interpretative Signage

COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

Chief Executive Officer Performance Management Panel

The CEO Performance Management Panel is established to assist the Council in the performance review of the CEO. The Panel is established to inquire into and report to the Council on the following matter(s) within the ambit of the Council's responsibilities:

- The Chief Executive Officer's Performance
- The Chief Executive Officer's Performance Measures
- The remuneration and conditions of employment for the Chief Executive Officer

The Panel is established to perform or discharge delegated powers, functions or duties that are delegated to the Council from time to time such as appointing a consultant to assist in the review of the CEO's performance including a review of the remuneration package of the Chief Executive Officer and make recommendations to the Panel.

The committee comprises:

Chairperson - Cr Brian Sambell (to 30 November 2020)

Chairperson - Cr Nathan Shank (from December 2020)

Deputy Chairperson - Cr Paul Koch

Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Cody Davies, Cr Diane Fraser (from 1 December 2020), Cr David Hughes, Cr Kelvin Goldstone, Cr Paul Little (from 1 December 2020), Cr Ian Tooley, Cr Jim Vallelonga

Corporate and Community Services Committee

The Corporate and Community Services Committee has been established to assist Council in the performance of the following functions of Council:

- Human resources
- Information technology
- Customer services
- Insurance and legal
- Economic development
- Tourism
- Council property administration [leases]
- Community assistance and support
- Home Assistance Scheme and other elderly support services
- Children and Youth Services
- Library and community information services
- Sport, recreation and community facilities
- Immunisation
- Corporate communications and marketing
- Local government and intergovernmental relations
- Local government structural reform
- Policy reviews
- Records Management
- Council Member services

Council has delegated powers under certain Acts of Legislation to this Committee.

The committee comprises:

Chairperson - Cr Cody Davies, Deputy Chairperson - Cr David Hughes (to 30 November 2020), Deputy Chairperson - Cr Paul Koch (from March 2021).

Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Diane Fraser, Cr Kelvin Goldstone, Cr Paul Little, Cr Ian Tooley

Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee

The Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee has been established to assist Council in the performance of the following functions of Council:

- Public Works
 - Roads
 - Footpaths
 - Stormwater
 - Flood mitigation and flood protection
 - Parks, gardens, playgrounds and reserves
- Traffic Management
- Murray Street Upgrade
- Directional and Civic Signage
- Asset Management
- Property Management (maintenance and upgrades)
- Cemeteries
- Development
 - Building
 - Planning
 - Heritage
- Waste Management
- General Inspectorial Services
 - Animal and plant control
- Environment and Community Health
- Emergency Management

Council has delegated powers under certain Acts of Legislation to this Committee.

The committee comprises:

Chairperson - Cr Paul Little, Deputy Chairperson – Cr Nathan Shanks (to 30 November 2020), Deputy Chairperson – Cr David Hughes (from December 2020)
Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Cody Davies, Cr Diane Fraser, Cr Kelvin Goldstone, Cr Paul Koch, Cr Brian Sambell, Cr Ian Tooley, Cr Jim Vallelonga

Gawler Heritage Collection Committee

The Gawler Heritage Collection Committee is established to provide advice to the Council on the following:

- Implementation, management and review of the Gawler Heritage Collection, the Gawler Heritage Collection Management Plan and related policies and procedures
- Identifying internal and external funding applications including grant and sponsorship opportunities
- Initiatives that restore the status, significance and awareness of collection within the Council's administration and within the broader community
- Local issues, projects, public program initiatives, events and community engagement opportunities in regard to the Gawler Heritage Collection
- Any other matters referred to it by the Council, other Council committees and the CEO

The committee comprises:

Chairperson - Mrs Judy Gillett-Ferguson, Deputy Chairperson - Cr Paul Koch. Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Diane Fraser, Ms Debra Good, Ms Helen Hennessy, Ms Margaret Howse. (to May 2021) Mr Adrian Brown (from June 2021)

OTHER COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Gawler Youth Advisory Committee

The Gawler Youth Advisory Committee is established to assist the Council in the performance of the following functions of the Council:

- Provide a communication link between young people in the Gawler community and Council
- Promote a positive image of young people in the community
- Ensure the Council Youth Plan remains relevant and implemented

The Committee is established to provide advice to the Council on the following:

- Matters affecting youth
- Informing the Gawler community about issues facing young people
- Identifying funding opportunities and preparation of grant applications
- Initiatives that raise the profile of young people and encourage the positive development of youth

1 July 2020 to 23 Feb 2021 (council adoption)

Chairperson: Angus Millikan, Deputy: Brenna Carmichael. Members: Darcie Hancock Emilia Muriti, Grace Gallagher, Isaac Solomon, Jack Gill, Jade Hancock, Renee Chamberlain, Talyn Treloar, Vinh Nguyen, Cr Cody Davies, Cr Nathan Shanks

23 February 2021 to 30 June 2021

Chairperson: Renee Chamberlain, Deputy: Jack Gill. Members: Alexander Prior, Abbey Dale., Angus Millikan, Brenna Carmichael, Darcie Hancock, Emilia Muriti, Grace Gallagher, Isaac Solomon, Jade Hancock, Talyn Treloar, Cr Cody Davies, Cr Nathan Shanks

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is established under Section 126 of the Local Government Act 1999. This Committee includes a minimum of two independent members with recent and relevant financial, risk management and internal audit experience.

The functions of the Audit Committee include:

- reviewing annual financial statements to ensure that they present fairly the state of affairs of the Council
- proposing, and providing information relevant to, a review of the Council's strategic management plans or annual business plan
- proposing, and reviewing, the exercise of powers under section 130A
- liaising with the Council's auditor
- reviewing the adequacy of the accounting, internal control, reporting and other financial management systems and practices of the Council on a regular basis

The Committee is comprised of three Council Members (including the Mayor) and three Independent Members

Chairperson - Mr Peter Brass, Deputy Chairperson - Mr Peter Fairlie-Jones and Ms Natalie Johnston (from 1 January 2021). Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Paul Koch, Cr D Hughes (from 1 December 2020), Cr Diane Fraser (to 30 November 2020), Cr Paul Little (to 30 November 2020)

Council Assessment Panel

Councils play a significant role as a 'relevant authority' under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, assessing and making decisions about development applications which will impact on the character and amenity of the area. Council delegates to the Council Assessment Panel under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 to exercise their development assessment powers and functions. The Panel comprises of four specialist, independent experts including the Presiding Member, as well as one Council Member.

Presiding Member - Dr Michael Llewellyn-Smith. Members - Ms Fleur Bowden, Dr Susan Shannon (to Sept 2020), Mr Ross Bateup (to Sept 2020), Mr Jake McVicar (from Oct 2020), Mr Grant Hewitt (from Oct 2020), Cr Kelvin Goldstone, Deputy Member Ms Iris Iwanicki (from Oct 2020). Deputy Members Cr David Hughes, Cr Nathan Shanks

Subsidiaries

The following Subsidiary Committees have been established in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act. Annual Reports for these subsidiaries are available in this document.

- Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority (NAWMA) (Section 43)
- Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority (GRFMA) (Section 43)

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS CONSIDERED

Confidential Items considered

Confidential Items as at 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021	Numbers of Orders
Total number of orders made under section 90(2) of the Act in the financial year	36
Total number or orders made under subsection 91(7) in the financial year	29
Number of orders made in the financial year that expired, ceased to apply or were revoked during the financial year	17

Relevant placita of Local Government Act (SA) 1999	Explanation S 90 (2) Information the disclosure of which would;	Number of occasions used
90(3)(a)	unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)	14
90(3)(b)(i) and (ii)	prejudice the commercial position of Council or be contrary to the public interest	11
90(3) (c)	would reveal a trade secret	1
90(3) (d)(i) and (ii)	commercial information ...prejudice the commercial position ... or a commercial advantage on a third party and be contrary to the public interest	12
90(3)(e)	matters affecting the security of the Council, members or employees of the council, or council property, or the safety of any person	-
90(3)(f)	prejudice the maintenance of the law prevention, detection or investigation of criminal offence, or right to a fair trial	-
90(3)(g)	not breach any law	-
90(3)(h)	legal advice	6
90(3)(i)	information relating to actual litigation, or litigation that the Council or Council committee believe on reasonable grounds will take place	3
90(3)(j)(i) and (ii)	divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or public authority ... be contrary to the public interest	5
90(3)(k)	tenders for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the carrying out of works	5
90(3)(m)	information relating to a proposed amendment to a Development plan under the Development Act 1993 before a Plan Amendment Report relating to the amendment is released for public consultation under that Act	-
90(3)(n)	information relevant to the review of a determination of Council under the Freedom of Information Act 1991.	-



Council Meeting

The table below is an extract of Council's Register of Confidential Items for all documents covered by confidentiality orders during 2019/20, with their status as at 30 June 2020.

Original Meeting Date	Last Review Meeting Date	Subject	Nature of Confidentiality Section 90(3)	Status as at 30/6/2019
25/10/2016	27/05/2021	Gawler East Link Road Update	(a) (h)	Attachments retained
28/2/2017	27/05/2021	Local Government Association of SA Business Case for a Public Lighting Service	(c)	Report retained
7/8/2018	27/05/2021	Woodvale Land Division 490/D023/16 (Variation To Stage 5) and Life Style Developments Land Division 490/D032/15	(b)	Attachments retained
26/2/2019	27/05/2021	Barossa Regional Procurement Group - Tender - Provision of New Surfacing Works and Resurfacing of Sealed Roads - BRPG 006-2018	(k)	Report retained
26/2/2019	27/05/2021	Electricity Procurement through Local Government Association Process	(k)	Report retained
26/3/2019	27/05/2021	Springwood Traffic Interventions and Community Infrastructure Deed Update	(b) (d) (h)	Retained in full
26/11/2019	27/05/2021	Concordia Precinct Authority - Business Case lodged with Minister	(j)	Retained in full
17/12/2019	27/05/2021	Concordia Precinct Authority - Business Case - Council Response	(j)	Retained in full
7/4/2020	27/05/2021	Stimulus Funding - Karbeethan Reserve Masterplan	(b)	Retained in full
7/4/2020	27/05/2021	Chief Executive Officer Performance Management Review Update	(a)	Retained in full
14/4/2020	27/05/2021	Springwood State Commission Assessment Panel Decision Legal Options	(b) (h)	Retained in full
14/4/2020	27/05/2021	Springwood Traffic Interventions and Community Infrastructure Deed	(b) (d)	Retained in full
14/4/2020	27/05/2021	Lifestyle Development Pty Ltd Gawler East Infrastructure Deed Update report	(b) (d)	Retained in full
14/4/2020	27/05/2021	Commissioner of Highways Traffic Interventions and Community Infrastructure Deed Update	(b) (d)	Retained in full
14/4/2020	27/05/2021	108 Eckerman Avenue -Gawler East Infrastructure Deed	(b) (d)	Retained in full
26/5/2020	27/05/2021	Recommendations from CEO Performance Management Panel Meeting held on 7 April 2020	(a)	Retained in full
16/6/2020	27/05/2021	Council Response to Resolution to Item 11.8 at the 28 April 2020 (2020:04:COU131)	(a) (h)	Retained in full
07/07/2020	27/05/2021	Application to Joinder SEA Gas Review of the State Commission Assessment Panel's Categorisation of Springwood Land Division Applications.	(b) (h) (i)	Retained in full
14/07/2020	27/05/2021	Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan Implementation	(b)	Retained in full
04/08/2020	27/05/2021	CEO Performance Management Review Update	(a)	Report and attachments retained
17/08/2020	27/05/2021	Allegations Arising from Enterprise Bargaining Negotiations - Investigation Update	(a)	Retained in full

31/08/2020	27/05/2021	Recommendations from Corporate & Community Services Committee meeting held on 14 June 2020	(b)	Retained in full
31/08/2020	27/05/2021	Cunningham and Harvey Accountants - New Lease Proposal	(d)	Retained in full
22/09/2020	27/05/2021	Representation Review	(k)	Report retained
22/09/2020	27/05/2021	Potential to Purchase Property - Corner High Street and Lyndoch Road Gawler	(b)	Retained in full
29/09/2020	27/05/2021	Allegations Arising From Enterprise Bargaining Negotiations - - Investigation Update	(a)	Report and attachments retained
03/11/2020	27/05/2021	Allegations Arising From Enterprise Bargaining Negotiations - Final Report	(a)	Report and attachments retained
17/11/2020	27/05/2021	CEO Performance Management Review Update	(a)	Report and attachments retained
23/11/2020	27/05/2021	Draft CEO Contract and KPIs	(a)	Report retained
30/11/2020	27/05/2021	Paternoster Road Land - Deferral	(a) (b) (h)	Retained in full
23/02/2021	27/05/2021	Public Lighting Update	(j)(i)	Retained in full
23/03/2021	27/05/2021	Apex Park Public Toilets Procurement Update	(d)	Retained in full
30/03/2021	27/05/2021	CEO Performance Update	(a)	Report retained
13/04/2021	27/05/2021	Procurement Matter	(j)(i)	Retained in full
27/04/2021	27/05/2021	Question Without Notice - Leave of Absence	(a)	Retained in full
27/04/2021	27/05/2021	Legal Advice Sought by Mayor	(h)	Retained in full
25/05/2021		Assignment of Gawler East Development Area Infrastructure Deeds	(d)(i)	Retained in full
25/05/2021		Gawler Civic Centre Cafe - Request for Proposal Submissions	(k)	Retained in full
25/05/2021		Gawler Caravan Park Lease and Capital Works Project Update	(b)(i) d(i)	Retained in full
22/06/2021		Gawler Civic Centre Cafe Update	d(ii) (k)	Retained in full



The Hon Hieu Van Le AC and Mrs Le's visit to Gawler

Role of the Chief Executive Officer

Role of Council

The role of Council as set out in the Local Government Act can be summarised as follows:

- Provide for the government and management of the Council area
- Act as a representative, informed and responsible decision maker in the interests of the community
- Provide and co-ordinate various public services and facilities
- Develop the community and resources in a socially just and ecologically sustainable manner
- Encourage and develop initiatives for improving quality of life of its residents
- Represent the interests of the residential and business community
- Exercise, perform and discharge statutory powers, functions and duties

The Chief Executive Officer provides leadership to the organisation and is responsible for ensuring Council's local by-laws, decisions and policies are implemented in line with the *Local Government Act 1999*, and other relevant legislation.

The Chief Executive Officer is also responsible for providing timely professional advice to Council and managing a professional relationship with the Mayor, Councillors, staff and volunteers.

Community Engagement

Council is committed to delivering effective community engagement to identify and understand community concerns and aspirations, support mutual communication and deliberation, build effective partnerships and encourage active participation. Our framework for community engagement is based on good governance and strong leadership and aids Council to make informed decisions to guide their priorities into the future.

Council's Public Consultation Policy sets out the principles and procedures that Council will follow to involve the community in planning and decision making, and to ensure accountability of the Council to the community through effective communication and engagement strategies.

The principles underpinning this Policy are:

- The community has a right to be involved in, and informed about, decisions affecting their area
- Community involvement in Council decision making will result in greater confidence in the Council and more responsible decision making
- Council decision making should be open, transparent and accountable
- The level of consultation with the community will vary depending on the community interest in the topic, the number of persons potentially affected by the topic and the requirements for consultation set out in the Act for specific topics
- Council's need to balance community views and interests with other influences such as budgetary constraints

Engagement with the community takes a variety of forms including, but not limited to:

- Your Voice Gawler, Council's online engagement platform
- Fortnightly Bunyip newspaper advertisements
- Letters
- Surveys
- Public forums
- Community meetings or workshops
- Focus groups
- Distribution of various pamphlets or publications via rates notice inserts and other means
- Displays at Council customer service points

For a complete list of projects that we have undertaken community engagement on visit page 26.

Risk Management

Local Government in South Australia is self-insured through the Local Government Risk Services with all insurance covers placed through this scheme (Workers Compensation, Public Liability, Professional Indemnity, Building, Fleet, etc.).

Council continues to work towards compliance with the SA Local Government Associations 'One System' approach to Work Health and Safety. Council employs a Work Health Safety Officer to provide formal consultations with staff via the Work Health Safety Committee and through the Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme.

Auditor Remuneration

Remuneration paid to Council's auditors, Dean Newbery and Partners (outgoing) and Galpins (incoming), for work performed in the 2020/21 financial year was \$40,435.

Senior Executive Officers Annual Remuneration

Gawler Council's Executive Group consisted of the Chief Executive Officer and five Managers each receiving a package of base salary in the range of \$163,094 to \$268,643 inclusive of Superannuation contributions and may also include allowances or benefits such as use of a private motor vehicle (note that Executive members make a financial contribution to the use of Council vehicles) and provision of telecommunications equipment and salary sacrifice contributions. The register of employee remuneration and benefits is available for inspection upon request at the Administration Centre.

Internal Review of Council Decisions (Section 270)

Gawler Council is committed to transparent decision making processes and to providing access to a fair and objective process for the internal review of its decisions. Grievances may arise as a result of dissatisfaction with a decision about a policy, process, service or fee. Council will attempt to resolve grievances quickly and efficiently without the need for formal applications for review to be lodged. The processes in place provide guidance for dealing with formal requests for Internal Review of decisions of Council, its employees and other people acting on behalf of Council.

Internal Review of a Council decision is a process established by legislation (Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999*) that enables a resident or ratepayer to request that Council reconsider the evidence relied on to make a decision, including new evidence if relevant. The Council will apply its Internal Review of a Council Decision Policy and Internal Review of a Council Decision Procedure upon receipt of a signed Internal Review of a Council Decision Application Form.

Internal Reviews of decisions are only appropriate where a particular identifiable decision is in issue. Internal Reviews of decisions cannot necessarily provide immediate resolution of grievances. For these reasons, lodging a formal 'Complaints and Requests for Services' through Council's website or with Customer Service staff may be more appropriate processes in the first instance.

This year the Town of Gawler received no request to undertake an Internal Review under Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Freedom of Information

Twenty Freedom of Information applications were received, two were withdrawn and eighteen were determined by Council under the *South Australia Freedom of Information Act 1991* in the twelve months to 30 June 2021.

Inquiries or requests for information under the Act should be forwarded to the Freedom of Information Officer via:

Email: council@gawler.sa.gov.au

Mail: PO Box 130, Gawler SA 5118

In person: Gawler Administration Centre, 43 High Street, Gawler East SA 5118

Freedom of Information Statement

The Freedom of Information Statement is published annually by Gawler Council in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 1991 and is available on the Council's website.

Access to Council Documents

Many Council documents are available for public inspection at Town of Gawler Administration Centre, 43 High Street, Gawler East, in accordance with Section 132 and Schedule 5 of the Local Government Act 1999. Persons may purchase these documents by payment of the fees set out in the Fees and Charges Register. Many of the documents are also available for viewing on Council's website: www.gawler.sa.gov.au

Registers

Council has in place the following registers and are available for public inspection: Members Register of Interests, Members Register of Allowances and Benefits, Members Gifts and Benefits, Campaign Donation Returns, Officers

Register of Salaries, Officers Register of Interests, Employees Gifts and Benefits, Fees and Charges, Assessment Book, By Laws, Community Land, Community Management Plan Delegations, Development Applications, Dogs, Parking Controls and Public Roads.

Codes and Policies

Codes of Conduct or Practice and Council Policies are available on the Council website, including those required by legislation.

Community Land and Council Facilities

The Council has Community Land Management Plans developed for public parks, reserves and other land under Council's care and control. These plans identify the purpose for which the land is held, the objectives of the management of the land and policies or proposals that may affect the land.

As the owner of community land Council recognises that it has a key role to play in providing a diverse range of recreation, sport and other facilities in collaboration with local clubs, associations, organisations and groups to meet the needs and interests of the community. This is one of many services that Council provides which contributes towards the creation of healthy and active communities.

A number of policies exist to provide a framework and guide the development and establishment of Ground Leases between Council and community Incorporated organisations.

Local Developer Forum

The Town of Gawler hosted a Local Developer Forum on Thursday 3 June 2021. This is a new initiative for the Town of Gawler and something which we believe will be of benefit to our local developers and the administration more generally, as it provides a forum to share information about key initiatives as well as better understand experiences and expectations in dealing with Council.



Mayor's Christmas Card award winners

The Gawler Community Plan is Council’s principal strategic document and a reflection of the community’s collective aspirations.



Community Plan 2030+



Santa’s Workshop

Community Plan 2030+
The Community Plan 2030+ was adopted by Council in December 2020. It acknowledges Identity, Growth, Community, Environment and Leadership as key pillars of performance.

The Gawler Community Plan 2030+ is Council’s highest level strategic document and a reflection of the community’s future aspirations for Gawler. It is an evolving and living document, used at all levels of the Town of Gawler and informed by ongoing community consultation.

As Gawler continues to grow, documents such as the Community Plan will be crucial to enable our community and Council to be focused on maintaining our fundamental vision for Gawler which is ‘Town of Gawler is liveable, cohesive, active, innovative and sustainable community’.

The Community Plan guides Council’s decision-making. It influences the allocation of resources based on the type and level of infrastructure and services desired by the community. It also identifies the role Council plays in advocating for infrastructure and service provision by other levels of government, non-government organisations and the private sector.

To ensure the vision described in the Gawler Community Plan is ultimately achieved at a local level, the goals, objectives and strategies within this document cascade down and are reflected in other Council plans.

Annual Business Plans / Budget
The Annual Business Plan identifies the specific actions and program of works which will be undertaken by Council during the financial year. The Annual Business Plan is directly linked to the objectives and strategies contained within the Community Plan.

The Local Government Act 1999, and the associated Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, prescribes the financial governance practices that must be applied by the Council.

- Key financial management elements are:
- Adoption of an Annual Budget / Business Plan (Section 123 of the Act)
 - Annual review of the Long Term Financial Plan (Section 122(4) of the Act)
 - Periodic reviews of the Annual Budget / Business Plan (Section 123(13) of the Act)
 - Preparation of Annual Financial Statements (Section 127 of the Act)
 - Internal Control policies (Section 125 of the Act)
- In addition to the legislative requirements mentioned above, Council also incorporates the following activities within its financial governance framework:
- Monthly Finance Reports are tabled to Council, outside of the periodic (quarterly) reviews of the Annual Budget / Business Plan
 - A Council Comparative Data Report, which compares the financial performance of Gawler Council against similar Councils and is tabled to Council on an annual basis

Long Term Financial Plan
The Long Term Financial Plan is reviewed and updated annually to provide an indicative ten-year outlook of Council’s longer-term financial aspirations.

Key elements of the annual review process include:

- **Operating Result** - the key financial performance measure of a Council is its recurrent financial result. A financially sustainable Council achieves an ongoing modest operating surplus, without the need for unplanned increases in rates or disruptive cuts to services.

Council achieved consecutive operating surpluses for six years from 2013/14 to 2018/19, and then realised a small operating deficit of \$255,000 (significantly informed by financial consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic) for 2019/20. The result for the 2020/21 reporting period was a \$233,000 surplus.

As a major growth Council, our operating performance continues to be significantly impacted from the challenges of major growth, as influenced and informed by new depreciation and maintenance costs directly derived from new and/or upgraded assets. In this regard, the \$65m Gawler East Link Road, which was officially opened in late 2020, has resulted in new annual depreciation

expense of \$470,000 p.a., which has significantly immediately impacted on Council’s ability to return higher operating surplus in the short to medium term.

With the exclusion of ‘one-off’ Federal Government economic stimulus funding in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years (provided under the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program), the Long Term Financial Plan currently forecasts minor operating deficits until the 2023/24 financial year.

Corporate Plan 2021 - 2025
While the community’s vision for Council is reflected in the Gawler Community Plan 2030+ and used to guide ‘what’ Council needs do over the next decade in order the achieve this vision, the Corporate Plan outlines ‘how’ Council as an organisation will achieve this vision. A review of Council’s Corporate Plan was completed in the 2020/2021 financial year. The Corporate Plan 2021-2025 outlines the Council’s mission, values, capabilities, habits and key measures in order to become a high performing organisation, detailing how the organisation will operate on a day-to-day basis to achieve long terms objectives and targets.

- **Debt Management** - A Council’s overall financial position is measured by its Net Financial Liabilities Ratio, which discloses the Net Financial Liabilities as a percentage of its Annual Operating Revenue. The widely accepted industry measure, and Council policy, is that the Net Financial Liabilities Ratio should not exceed 100%.

The Long Term Financial Plan currently estimates the ratio peaking at 94% in the 2021/22 financial year, following which it is forecasted to incrementally decrease to 54% by the 2026/27 financial year as a direct result of planned ongoing debt reduction over coming years. The debt reduction will predominantly be informed by a reduced investment in ‘discretionary’ capital investment (i.e. the discretionary investment in new and/or upgraded assets).

The Plan then currently provides for a gross \$40m (net \$20m after grant funding) for Council’s next major iconic asset investment across the 2027/28 and 2028/29 financial years, which would then increase the estimated ratio result to 81% in 2028/29 (which would still be within Council’s current policy threshold position of 100%).

Ongoing financial discipline will need to be maintained by the Council over coming years to ensure the proposed debt reduction strategy is realised.

- **Asset Management Funding** - Council’s Long Term Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans outline the asset management funding required to maintain Council’s fixed long-term assets (such as buildings, roads, footpaths, stormwater drainage, etc.) in an appropriate condition to support and maintain identified asset service levels. It is important, and a legislative requirement,

that the asset management funding identified is incorporated within the Long Term Financial Plan. The Asset Management Plans for Transport, Stormwater, and Open Space Assets have recently been endorsed by Council for the purpose of community consultation to be undertaken during 2021/22. The update of the Buildings Asset Management Plan will be undertaken during the first six months of the 2021/22 financial year, to inform the next annual update of the Long Term Financial Plan. Following the public consultation undertaken, the Asset Management Plans will be further updated (as needed) and tabled to Council for adoption.

Competitive Tendering

Council's Procurement Policy defines the methods by which Council can acquire goods and services and sets out key principles to ensure probity, equity, transparency and accountability in its purchasing processes and practices. The policy is available for inspection at Council's Principal Office or on the website. This year Council advertised 8 tenders through the SA Tenders and Contracts website. Gawler Council, as part of the Barossa Regional Procurement Group, also tendered for the provision of security services, playground audits and general repairs and building maintenance on a regional basis.

The Barossa Regional Procurement Group is an alliance between the Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Mid-Murray Council, Light Regional Council and the Adelaide Plains Council (formerly the District Council of Mallala). The aim of the Group is to improve internal procurement practices, create efficiencies and reduce the burden on suppliers through standardisation of procurement documentation and deliver potential cost savings for all member Councils. The Barossa Regional Procurement Group achieved these aims through the tender process of five tenders this financial year.

National Competition Policy

The objective of the National Competition Policy is the elimination of resource allocation distortions arising out of the public ownership of entities engaged in significant business activities. Government businesses should not enjoy any net competitive advantage as a result of their public sector ownership. These principles only apply to the business activities of publicly owned entities, not to the non-business, non-profit activities of these entities.

Council commenced operations at the Gawler Civic Centre in February 2019. Council is directly responsible for managing venue hire for meetings and functions within the Gawler Civic Centre and has set commercial hire rates for this purpose based on regional benchmarking. The Institute Hall also hosts live performance activity on a cost recovery basis via ticket sales. Both of these business operations are being conducted in accordance with the National Competition Policy. Two other commercial businesses are operating from the Gawler Civic Centre namely Niina Marni Kadlitiya (Social Enterprise Café) and the Business Innovation Hub. Council has entered into

management agreements with private operators for these businesses being Red Centre Enterprises and Andrew Morris respectively. These management agreements provide for compliance with the National Competition Policy. Council did not receive any complaints alleging a breach of competitive neutrality during this period. Unfortunately, the Niina Marni Kadlitiya Social Enterprise Café closed during the onset of COVID-19.

Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans

Council's Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans cover all fixed assets; property, infrastructure, plant and equipment maintained by Council. The purpose of the Plans are to ensure the long-term, sustainable management of Council's assets appropriate to community expectations and Council needs. The Plans are currently being updated in consideration of Council's Community Plan, Development Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Annual Business Plan. The Plans are summarised annually in the Long Term Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan (IAMP) capital works plan which identifies optimum capital investment funding required, over a ten year horizon.

This funding is relative to the replacement/renewal of Council's stock of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets and supports new capital investment projects being delivered each year. In this regard, the optimum funding required over the ten year horizon caters for the replacement/ renewal of assets at the end of their identified useful or economic lives – with such lives, in turn, informed by either Council's various service standards, past experience, or accepted industry guidelines / standards. The IAMP also charts and informs identified potential investment in new/ upgraded assets. Such investment, which is more of a 'discretionary' nature when compared to the replacement / renewal of existing assets, is informed by either external grant funding secured (recent examples being funding secured for the Murray Street Stage 7, Walker Place precinct redevelopments and Blackspot Upgrade at High Street/ Lyndoch Road). The Plan is also informed by various infrastructure deeds with developers, various independent management plans, (e.g. the Gawler Open Space Sport and Recreation Plan, Walking and Cycling Plan), or Council's own longer term aspirations.



The Amazing Magic Mike children's show at the Gawler Civic Centre

The Town of Gawler
Community Plan
2030+ presents five key
Strategic Goals:

In 2019/20 a review of the Community Plan 2014-2024 was undertaken to ensure it reflected current community aspirations. The review involved engagement with elected Council Members, staff and the wider community and the revised Plan was adopted by Council in October 2019.



OUR IDENTITY

GOAL 1:

A Uniquely Identifiable Township





OUR GROWTH

GOAL 2:

Managed and Sustainable Growth





OUR COMMUNITY

GOAL 3:

A Healthy, Active, Safe, Engaged Community





OUR ENVIRONMENT

GOAL 4:

To Respect and Nurture the Environment





OUR LEADERSHIP

GOAL 5:

A Strong, Vibrant Community

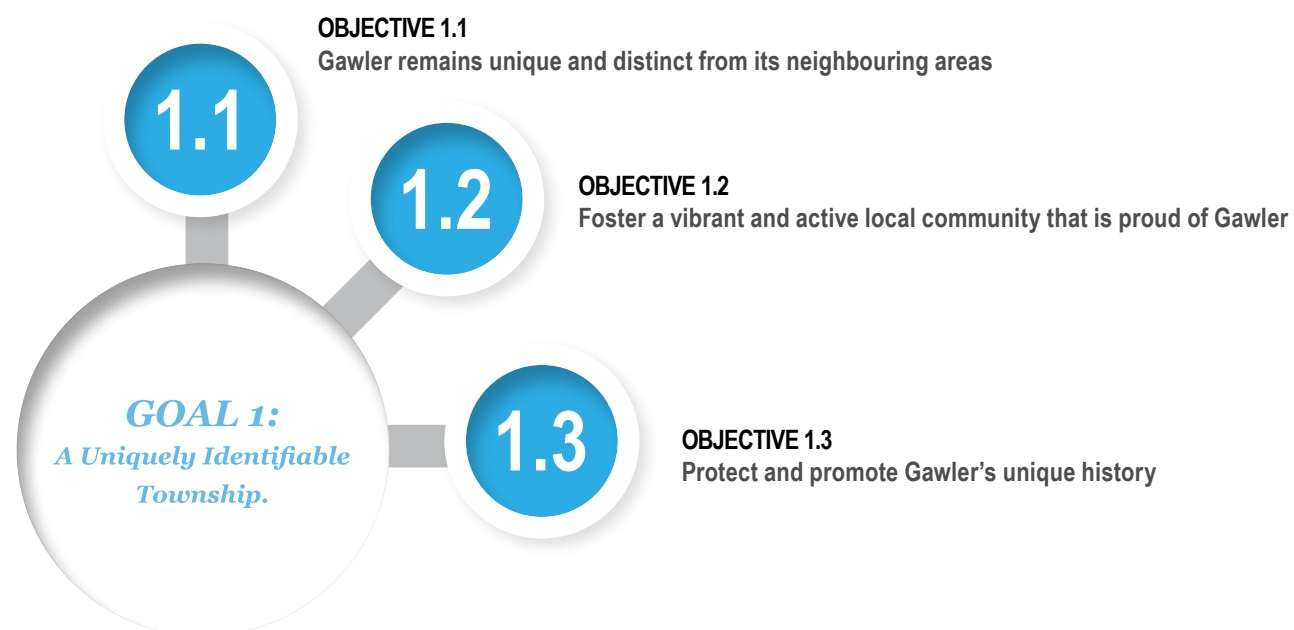


Each of the Goals provides a reference in Council's key daily operations and service delivery outcomes. These outcome areas, associated goals, objectives and strategies have formed a critical reference point in reporting achievements this year.

This section of the Annual Report provides a summary of key achievements over the year.



Gawler Visitor Information Centre Bike Hub



The following is a reflection of the Key Achievements relating to Goal 1 - A Uniquely Identifiable Township. The more significant Key Achievements for Goal 1 are featured on the next few pages.

OBJECTIVE 1.1 Gawler remains unique and distinct from its neighbouring areas

- Boundary Reform
- Rural Land Use and Infrastructure Investigation and the Rural Areas Development Plan Amendment
- Local Heritage Transition Development Plan Amendment

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

- Stimulus Program – Community Events & Activation
 - Community Grants
 - External Grants Program
 - Unsightly Premises
 - Gawler Civic Centre
1. Cultural Heritage Centre
 2. Social Enterprise Café
 3. Youth Space
 4. Gawler Club Inc.
- Community Engagement
 - ANZAC Day
 - Gawler Fringe

OBJECTIVE 1.3 Protect and promote Gawler's unique history

- Gawler Aquatic Centre - Facilities Upgrade
- Beautification Plan
- Marketing and Communications
- Arts and Culture Strategy
- The Headstone Project
- Gawler Civic Centre Institute Event Spaces and Town Hall Meeting Rooms
- Walker Place Redevelopment

Boundary Reform

A change to state government legislation in January 2019 has allowed Council to consider and seek boundary realignment to better meet the needs of our whole community. Under this new legislation Council has applied to an independent body, being the South Australian Boundaries Commission (the Commission), to assess and investigate its proposal for boundary change.

Council has embraced this important opportunity to put forward a case for boundary change on behalf of our community so we can continue to provide an appropriate level of services and infrastructure to our residents, businesses, visitors and community into the future. Council believes there are strong economic, social and environmental reasons for progressing to pursue boundary reform.

Town of Gawler submitted a Stage 2 General Proposal for Boundary Change to the South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission in December 2020 for consideration.

The following areas are included as part of the Stage 2 General Proposal for Boundary Change to be considered by the Local Government Boundaries Commission for inclusion within Gawler:

- Concordia growth area
- Hewett
- a portion of Kalbeeba (including Springwood's rural living; and yet to be developed residential area)
- a portion of Gawler Belt
- Evanston Park
- Reid
- Hillier



The following areas are identified as part of the Stage 2 General Proposal for Boundary Change for removal from Gawler:

- The small portion of Bilbaringa that is currently within Gawler
- The small portion of Uleybury that is currently within Gawler

The Stage 2 General Proposal is undergoing an independent assessment by the South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission. If the Commission finds that the Proposal holds merit and should be investigated, Council will be advised of the cost of proceeding to the next stage. Council will then have to decide if it wishes to proceed and if so, fund the Stage 3 Investigation which will include a community consultation phase, undertaken by the Local Government Boundaries Commission for all Councils and Communities affected by the Proposal.

OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

Rural Land Use and Infrastructure Investigation and the Rural Areas Development Plan Amendment
A Statement of Intent, pursuant to section 25(1) of the Development Act 1993, was lodged with the Minister for Planning on 18 May 2018 seeking his agreement to commence a Development Plan Amendment involving the Rural Zone. In response to this request, the Minister for Planning stated that he was unable to support the Development Plan Amendment in its proposed format and encouraged Council to pursue this change to land use policy via a Planning and Design Code Amendment, once the new system was implemented. The Planning and Design Code was ultimately implemented state-wide on 19 March 2021. Initial investigations associated with a Rural Areas Planning and Design Code Amendment are anticipated to recommence in the later half of 2021.

Local Heritage Transition Development Plan Amendment
In light of proposed changes via the implementation of the Planning and Design Code, Council commenced the Local Heritage Transition Development Plan Amendment in August 2019. Following the analysis undertaken to review all Contributory Items across the Council area, the Development Plan Amendment was utilised to convert 150 contributory items to Local Heritage Places. The Development Plan Amendment was formally lodged with the Minister for consideration and approval at the end of May 2021. Council is currently awaiting the Minister’s final decision.

Stimulus Program – Community Events & Activation
A significant component of Council’s 2020/21 budget was the incorporation of a \$2million Economic Stimulus Package in response to the immediate and ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to the local community. A \$75,000 Stimulus Package was provided to local community organisations to deliver community events and activation initiatives to help support a connected, inclusive, and creative town. The following community organisations received funding through the Council Events & Activation Stimulus Program:

- Feros Care Gawler • Gawler & Districts Softball Association • Gawler Agricultural, Horticultural & Floricultural Society • Gawler Apex Club • Gawler Suicide Prevention Community Group • Gawler Veteran, Vintage & Classic Vehicle Club • Hope Chapel • Rotary Club of Gawler • Rotary Club of Gawler Light • Zonta Club of Gawler

Community Grants
The Community Grants encourage and support a range of projects, events and activities occurring within the Town of Gawler. Each year Council contributes \$15,000 towards the Community Grants Program. The grants encourage community development by supporting a range of initiatives in areas such as health, recreation and sport, community development, arts and culture, history, and the environment. Eligible groups, organisations and individuals are invited to apply for up to \$1,000 to assist with community focused initiatives that benefit the Gawler community. In the 2020/21 Grants Round a total of 13 applications were received and 11 grants were allocated to a variety of initiatives including:

Organisation	Project	Amount
Trinity Old Scholars Hockey Club	Portable Pitch Divider	\$212
Gawler Girl Guides	Mobile Computer Trolley	\$400
Lions Club of Gawler	Defibrillator	\$1,000
Hope Chapel	Community Food Truck Launch - Evanston	\$1,000
Rotary Club of Gawler	Gawler Hospital TV Replacement	\$1,000
Wheels in Motion Gawler	Safety While Learning to Drive	\$600
Melissa Currinckx	Gawler and Barossa Kids Club (Autism Support Group)	\$1,000
Gawler Town Band	Gawler Town Band Performance Marquee	\$1,000
Gawler Art Society	Art For All	\$500
Gawler Floral Art Group Inc	Gawler Floral Art Group	\$630
Meryl McDougall	Mega-Waves Art Exhibition	\$995
TOTAL		\$8,337



Australia Day Event

OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

External Grants Program
Council continues to be proactive in seeking external funding to assist the delivery of its programs, services and infrastructure. This year, Council was successful in obtaining \$3,766,256 in project related grant funding as outlined in the table below:

Grant	Project	Amount
Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program – Phase 1 & 2	6 x Footpaths, 7 x Road Reseals, 4 x Playground Shade Sails, Lift Installation in the Visitor Information Centre, Hemafood Grove Playground, Gawler West Playground ½ court Basketball Court, Martins Place Toilet (partial funding)	\$1,317,756
Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program	Murray Street Stage 7	\$463,000
VACSWIM	VACSWIM 2020/2021 Program	\$4,000
Changing Places	Martins Place Changing Places Facility	\$100,000
Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program	Karbeethan Reserve Redevelopment – Stage 1	\$900,000
Open Space Program	Prince's Park Community Recreation Hub – Stage 1	\$356,500
Age Friendly SA 2020-2021	Gawler Ageing Well Framework	\$35,000
Infrastructure Grant	Access Improvements to Public Transport – Tambelin	\$150,000
Gawler River Flood Management	Rehabilitate Hillier Fire Ground	\$440,000
TOTAL		\$3,766,256

Pending Grant Applications

- Building Better Regions Fund - Gawler Cultural Heritage Surveys - \$20,000
- Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Stream – Gawler Green Light Project - \$500,000

Unightly Premises
Councils Environmental Health Officers from the Environmental Services Team served an Abatement Notice under the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016. The notice sought works to be carried out to clean up a long standing issue causing an adverse effect on the amenity of an area that was significantly out of conformity with the general appearance of neighbouring premises. The property was also insanitary and was determined that it unreasonably interfered with or is likely to interfere unreasonably with the enjoyment of premises occupied by persons in the vicinity. The abatement notice was subsequently complied with.

Council’s Community Safety Team respond to complaints regarding unsightly conditions on premises. Authorised Officers are able to make a subjective assessment of the property with regard to its impact upon the local amenity value of an area. Schedule 1 of the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016 assists in determining if unsightly conditions exist, and if a matter is considered serious enough, Nuisance Abatement Notice and/or on-the-spot-fines can apply. Causal factors around unsightly premises and hoarding can often be attributed to mental health issues, injuries and financial difficulties, Authorised Officers pursue enforcement action as a last resort, when property owners fail to take reasonable steps to comply with the Act.

During the 20/21 financial year, Council received 81 unsightly property complaints, showing an increase from the 19/20 year when 34 reports were lodged with Council. The increase appears to indicate that local residents are becoming more aware of the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act, and are seeking to report concerns with the way their neighbours are keeping their properties. A large

number of Unightly Complaints made to Council are not assessed as meeting the criteria for enforcement action, as they are not considered to be significantly out of conformity with the surrounding area.

Gawler Civic Centre
Throughout the financial year, over 74,000 people came through the main entrances to visit the various areas within the Gawler Civic Centre. The Centre hosted many exciting events throughout the year including Fringe, History Festival, Santa’s Workshop and various art and other exhibitions.

Gawler Cultural Heritage Centre
The Cultural Heritage Centre activities grew significantly in its second year of operation located in the Gawler Civic Centre. We were proud to present two new exhibitions at the Heritage Gallery, Fire the Cannon and Golden Lands, both of which celebrated some of the unique objects found in the Gawler Heritage Collection.

Additional exhibitions presented throughout the Civic Centre included the Hans Heysen Touring Exhibition, the CWA Branch Exhibition and the GEHA Gawler Historical Maps Exhibition.

There were 5,583 visitors to the Heritage Gallery and 351 people utilizing the Heritage Research Centre throughout the year. The Heritage Research Centre continued to be open to the public for 12 hours per week and to provide phone and e-mail contact to attend to the increasing number of family and local history enquiries. Council staff and the hard - working volunteers catalogued a total of 1,412 items of the Gawler Heritage Collection to the online cloud based catalogue system, ‘e-hive’. Staff also

OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

contributed to the Headstone and Walker Place Projects with research and heritage consultation services, hosted 4 History Festival events, finalized the Cultural Heritage Management Plan 2020-2025 and delivered programs and events to some 460 participants.

Social Enterprise Café

Unfortunately Niina Marni Kadlitiya was closed for the entire financial year with Red Centre Enterprises advising Council that it would not be re-opening the Café. Council undertook an open request for proposal process seeking a suitably qualified private operator(s) for the Café and Metropolitan Canteens was selected as the preferred operator. The Café is due to re-open in August 2021.

Youth Space

The Gawler Youth Space has provided a safe space for young people aged 8-25 years to attend free term programs and free/subsidised school holiday programs. With a focus on Health and Wellbeing, young people had many opportunities to engage in fun/skilled social activities in a safe, supported environment. The Gawler Youth Advisory Committee helps guide the direction and development of the Youth Space programs. The Youth Space is home to the Gawler and District Youth Workers Network (Child-friendly focus). Meeting regularly with diverse groups of child and youth providers allows members to access local knowledge and opportunities for young people within our community. Youth Space memberships capture regular uses of the space and allow future planning around the young people's interests and wellbeing. At the end of 2020 calendar year, the Youth Space had 99 members. Ending the financial year, June 2021, the Youth Space had 74 members registered. Considering the effects of COVID-19 on the community/state in 2020/2021, the memberships and usage of the space have remained positive.

Gawler Club Inc.

The Gawler Club continue to use their redeveloped space in the Town Hall Lower Ground Floor of the Gawler Civic Centre. Other than a brief closure due to COVID-19, the Club continued to operate while the Centre was open. During the year they hosted regular, monthly, Thursday night Social Nights for existing and new members.

Community Engagement

The following are community engagement initiatives undertaken by Council in 2020/21:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Genetically Modified Crops Legislation• 2020/2021 Draft Annual Budget/Business Plan• Customer Service Strategy• Boundary Reform• Amendments to the Gawler Disability Access and Inclusion Plan• Gawler Community Plan 2030• 'Say How You Play' HemaFord Reserve• King Street Pedestrian Bridge• Proposed Leasing of Community Land• Gawler Business Survey• Willaston Local Area Traffic Management Plan• Gawler Economic Development Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essex Park & Gawler Showgrounds Regional Sporting Precinct Master Plan• Development Plan Amendment - Local Heritage Transition• Gawler Railway Corridor• Cat By Law• Draft Beautification Plan• Review of Elector Representation• Barossa, Light and Lower Northern Region Public Health and Wellbeing Plan• 2021/2022 Draft Annual Budget/Business Plan• Proposed Leasing of Community Land• Gawler Community Garden - Community Engagement |
|---|---|

ANZAC Day

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the annual ANZAC Day March, Vigil and Service were all cancelled. The events were replaced once again with "Light up the Dawn" where community members were invited to stand at their front gate or door at dawn on ANZAC Day with a lit candle to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australia's veterans. In addition, a small party of officials, including Mayor Redman, laid wreaths at the War Memorial in Pioneer Park.

Gawler Fringe

The 2021 Gawler Fringe took place from Friday 19 February to Sunday 21 March 2021. This was the seventh year that Council has participated in the Fringe, the fifth year that the opening event occurred in Walker Place and the second year that a comprehensive program of events and activities occurred in the Gawler Civic Centre. It is estimated that more than 2,000 people attended the vast range of 2021 Gawler Fringe events that spanned the month of Fringe.

Both Walker Place and the Gawler Civic Centre were Adelaide Fringe registered venues for the 2021 Gawler Fringe. An extensive program of events was delivered that included live music, Library events and activities, youth focused activities, children's entertainment, magic, cabaret, circus, film, comedy, quiz night, Nunga Fringe and art exhibition. A Fringe in the Park event also occurred at Evanston as part of the 2021 Gawler Fringe.

OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

Gawler Aquatic Centre – Facility Upgrades

The \$960,000 upgrade to the facilities at the Gawler Aquatic Centre was completed in September 2020. The project received \$409,445 of grant funding through the Australian Government's Sport Australia Community Sport Infrastructure program. The newly upgraded Aquatic Centre opened in October 2020 with a new look that was widely supported in its first season. The upgrade included the redevelopment of the outdated change rooms and toilets providing bright, colourful tiling and walls with new modernised fixtures. The development also saw the addition of new facility areas such as new family friendly change area and an accessible adult change facility.

The upgrade increases the level of care and service provided through an upgrade of the first aid room which now includes air-conditioning for treatment of patrons. The meeting/multi-purpose space has been fitted with large pool facing windows to allow for casual spectating from inside. A new storage shed with increased capacity for future needs was delivered as part of the project.

The upgrade included environmentally sustainable initiatives such as the installation of energy efficient LED lighting throughout the facility and a large capacity solar hot water system installed with gas boost to provide energy efficient water heating and ensure hot water is available to all patrons when required. A rubber soft fall surface was installed on the eastern side of the 50m pool providing a cooler surface to this high foot trafficked area as well as adding another splash of colour to the facility.

Beautification Plan

A Beautification Plan was progressed with an emphasis on the seven (7) main entries into the Township, numerous roundabouts and also levels of service in maintenance. A draft Plan was developed in 2020/21 in partnership with the Council Members, as well as wider community through consultation. Community consultation proving to be very successful in seeking feedback on

measures being proposed to improve the amenity of the Township over time.

The Beautification Plan will be finalised in 2021/22 and will be used to inform future budget submissions for works identified in a prioritised manner and also increase levels of service over time. A \$150,000 allocation has been allocated in the 2021/22 Annual Budget for commencing implementing the works.

Marketing and Communications

Council utilises a variety of print and digital communication channels to connect with residents. Social media pages and the Town of Gawler website provide the most up to date information and the quickest engagement opportunity for the wider Gawler community.

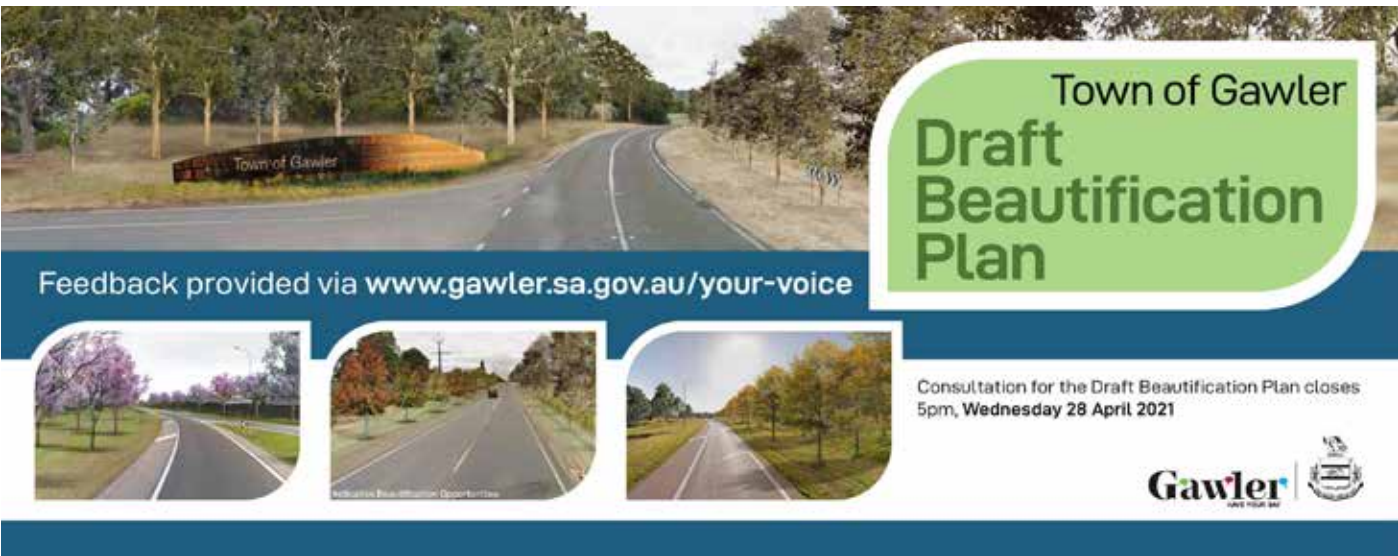
During 2020/21, the Marketing and Communications department started the process to develop a Digital Marketing Strategy to assist Council Staff to manage and use digital media effectively. This strategy will be presented to Council in the new financial year.

Currently, Council has the following digital media channels:

- Town of Gawler Website
- Your Voice Gawler Consultation Website
- 8 Facebook pages
- 3 Instagram pages
- LinkedIn page
- Twitter account
- YouTube account
- Gawler Connected Community App
- Outgoing emails
- Outgoing SMS

all delivering relevant information to a growing follower base of interested community.

Each digital media channels reaches a large number of our community who are interested in various business functions at the Town of Gawler.



Beautification Plan

OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

Page / Account	Facebook followers	Facebook page reach	Instagram Followers	Instagram Page Reach	Followers	Page views
Town of Gawler	8.9K	245,526	1K	1,666	339,587	
Gawler Aquatic Centre	4.2K	66,153	333	685		
Gawler Civic Centre	959	23,007	N/A	N/A		
Gawler Cultural Heritage Centre	193	18,213	155	113		
Gawler Public Library	1.7K	24,676	N/A	N/A		
Gawler Sport and Community Centre	3.8K	42,162	N/A	N/A		
Gawler Visitor Information Centre	869	3,840	N/A	N/A		
Gawler Youth	2.9K	66,078	421	2,172		
Your-Voice Consultation						14,929
Linkedin					502	
Twitter					1003	
YouTube					136	29,820

Arts and Culture Strategy

The Gawler Arts & Culture Strategy 2016-2025 presents a vision that promotes arts and cultural activity that is accessible, creates a vibrant place to live and work, and connects people to each other and the heritage of Gawler.

The Arts and Culture Strategy outlines Council's commitment to the arts over a ten-year period, under the themes of: development and investment in people; activation of and investment in places; development and investment in activity.

The Headstone Project

On 5 December 2020 volunteers from The Headstone Project conducted a moving ceremony at Willaston Cemetery to honour the service of seven World War One veterans by placing military headstones on their previously unmarked graves. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the State Government, Council, the RSL and all three branches of the Armed Services. Music for the service was provided by the Gawler Town Band. The ABC program The 7.30 Report produced a documentary on the project which aired on ANZAC Day 2021.

The ceremony was the culmination of the successful collaboration of Council, Staff and Headstone Project Volunteers. Cultural Heritage Centre Staff helped locate families in order to facilitate the transfer of expired grave leases, Council agreed to waive applicable fees, the Cemeteries Officer guided families through the necessary documentation and the Civil Operations and Town Services Teams ensured that Willaston Cemetery was beautifully presented on the day.

Gawler Civic Centre - Institute Event Spaces and Town Hall Meeting Rooms

The four Institute Event Spaces – James Martin Room, Institute Hall, Seating Gallery and Council Chambers – hosted a number of community and corporate user and

hirer groups along with a variety of Council programs, shows, events, exhibitions and meetings. The ten (10) Town Hall Meeting Rooms hosted a number of regular community groups and some corporate hirers. With peaks and dips throughout the year, largely due to Coronavirus outbreaks or hesitancy, Council Staff continued to make available rooms for hire in accordance with relevant capacity restrictions and COVID-Safe Plans.

Regular community group's using the Town Hall Meeting Rooms included: Just 4 Women, JP Services, Dementia Australia, Lutheran Community Care Financial Counselling, Northern Volunteering SA, Gawler Business Development Group, Uniting SA, Barossa Christadelphians, Barkuma, Gawler Community Garden and Friends of the Gawler Library.

As the Café was closed, the public space on the ground floor was used for exhibitions, displays, promotion, small events and public consultation feedback on various projects throughout the year.

Our shows/events highlights included:

- Bumbles the Clown Children's show
- ABBA Gold Show
- Gawler Town Band Christmas Matinee Show
- Santa's Workshop
- The Amazing Magic Mike Magic Show and Workshop
- 2020 Gawler Fringe shows – variety
- Legends by Greg Hart Show
- 39 Forever starring Amity Dry Show
- The Rad Pack Show

Walker Place Redevelopment

The Walker Place Redevelopment is part of the Gawler Central Urban Precinct Project which was the recipient of \$1,006,361 from the South Australian Government's Places for People grant scheme. The works were completed in August 2020 and celebrated an opening

OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

event. The redevelopment has maintained one-way thoroughfare for traffic and car-parking while also creating a calming spot in the centre of our town to sit and relax in the landscaped areas, or have your interest piqued in Gawler's rich history through one of the Kaurna and historical quotes on display. Walker Place can now be easily converted in a flexible open public space for events such as the Gawler Fringe.

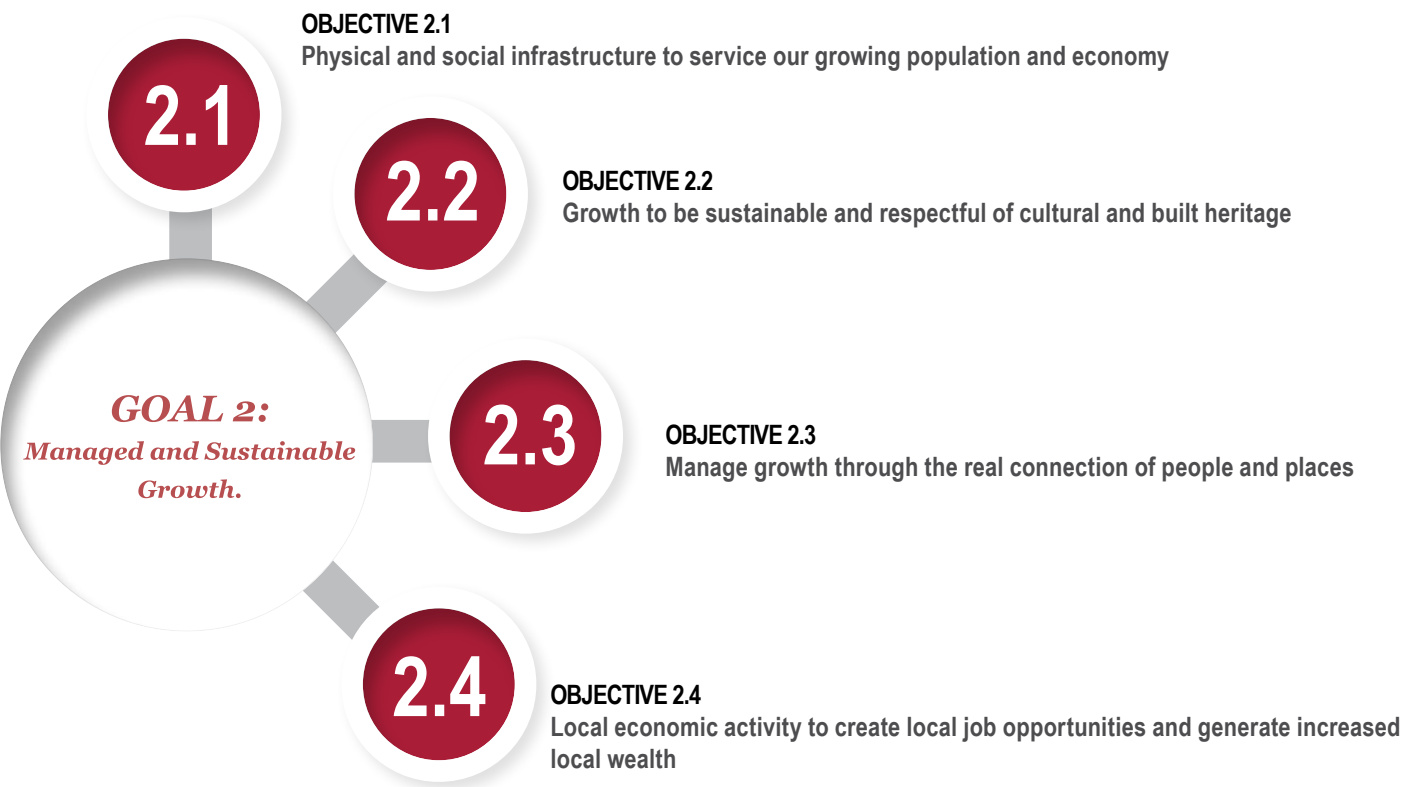
The Project has won two prestigious awards including the Excellence in Design and/or Construction of a

Public Works Project – Civil under \$2 million through the South Australian branch of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia, and a Landscape Architecture Award in the Civil Landscape category by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects SA.

A key outcome from the investment in Walker Place is the opportunity to drive growth for existing businesses through attraction to this high-quality public realm and stimulate economic redevelopment of properties in the local area.



The Headstone Project



The following is a reflection of the Key Achievements relating to Goal 2 - Managed and Sustainable Growth.
The more significant Key Achievements for Goal 2 are featured on the next few pages.

- OBJECTIVE 2.1** Physical and social infrastructure to service our growing population and economy
- Gawler East Link Road
 - Southern Urban Areas
 - Annual Road Reseal and Patch Repair Programs
 - Willaston Cemetery Conservation and Management Plan
 - Murray Street Upgrade Stage 7
 - Gawler Rail Corridor Policy Impact
 - Gawler Rail Electrification Project
 - New Apex Park Toilet
 - New Martins Place Toilet
 - Mural Pocket Park
 - Black Spot – High Street / Lyndoch Road Intersection Upgrade
 - Playground Shade Structures
 - Renew Hardscaping – Dawson

- OBJECTIVE 2.2** Growth to be sustainable and respectful of cultural and built heritage
- Road Pathway Solar LED Lighting
 - New Footpath Program
 - Bus Stop DDA Upgrades
 - Street Lighting Improvement Program
- OBJECTIVE 2.3** Manage growth through the real connection of people and places
- Heritage Advisory Services
 - Heritage Grant Scheme
 - Development Assessment Services
 - Design for Gawler Oval Car Park upgrade

- OBJECTIVE 2.4** Local economic activity to create local job opportunities and generate increased local wealth
- Gawler Business Development Group
 - Regional Development Australia Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains (RDA BGLAP)
 - Business Innovation Hub
 - Economic Development Strategy
 - Interstate and regional visitors to the Cultural Heritage Research Centre

Gawler East Link Road
The 5.5 km long Gawler East Link Road was completed by the State Government for the Council and opened on 18 October 2020. An opening ceremony was held with MP Knoll, Mayor Redman and Springwood Estate represented as partners to this project as well as invited guests and Karna representatives.

The roadway was named Schomburgk Drive from its connection at Potts Road through to the intersection in Springwood Estate with the newly created Mullamar Way linking the roadway to Calton Road. These roads being named after notable community members whose contributions to the Town of Gawler in both its establishment and recent past have been recognised.

Council worked with Springwood Estate to complete the tree planting required along the length of the roadway ahead of the opening. Supporting road infrastructure will continue to be delivered to support growth in this precinct over time. This includes a further footpath, public lighting, car parking bays and further intersection connections.

Southern Urban Areas
Council worked with Renewal SA and the developers of Aspire Estate and Orleana Waters to progress their respective developments. This included continuing infrastructure development within the estate as well

as progressing designs for works required to external infrastructure to support these new communities. Upgrades to Coventry and Clark Roads being notable designs which are being progressed ahead of implementation in the near future.

Annual Road Reseal and Patch Repair Programs
In 2020/21 the Road Reseal Program was valued at \$520,000 and included sealing 4,282 metres of local roads. The Council has pursued innovative sustainable asphalt delivery as part of its program through increasing the use of recycled asphalt from 20% to 30% into the mix design.

Road resealing of 2,750m occurred along Mold Court, Parham Court, Baldock Street, Rogash Road, First Street, Barnet Road, Kellys Road, East Terrace, Britha Avenue, Hidson Street, Greening Drive, View Crescent, Panorama Drive, Jenifer Street, Rowe Court, and Ames Drive. The 332 metres of road resurfacing was completed on Purcell Grove and Jestina Avenue using a new recycled asphalt product, Reconophalt™. Reconophalt™ uses 30% recycled asphalt and recycles soft plastics, including printer toner cartridges and plastic bags sourced from plastics recycling programs REDcycle and Close the Loop. The remaining 1,200 metres of road resealing was completed on Smith Street using a spray sealed surfacing.



Gawler East Link Road

OUR GROWTH - Key Achievements

Willaston Cemetery Conservation and Management Plan
Council's staff completed Stage 6 of the Willaston Conservation and Management Plan that involved associated upgrades in Block Two. Works undertaken included:

- Installation of compacted rubble to aisles
- Paving Installation
- Concrete Installation of the plinths
- Compacted Rubble Aisles

A budget allocation to progress Stage 7 has been made in 2021-22.

Murray Street Upgrade Stage 7

Murray Street Stage 7 is the final stage of the upgrade of Murray Street which started in 2012 with Stage 1 Murray St – Lyndoch to Carlton Rd. Stage 6 was completed in 2019 up to and including the Gawler Mill Inn Bridge. Stage 7 includes the Council owned section of Adelaide Road from the Gawler Mill Inn Bridge including the Tenth and Seventh Street Intersections.

The project is realigning the road and improving road safety around the intersections of Adelaide Road and Tenth Street and Seventh Street, including cycling lane delineation and improved lighting. Drainage and stormwater control will be improved and new landscaping installed. In 2020-21 the project completed the new drainage, kerbing and footpath, and street lighting elements of the project. The pavement works and remaining landscape will be completed in late 2021.

Gawler Rail Corridor Policy Impact

In light of the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure's intention to progress the Ministerial Adelaide – Gawler Rail Corridor Uplift Development Plan Amendment (DPA), the Council undertook an analysis titled 'Gawler Rail Corridor Policy Impact Analysis'. This analysis was considered necessary, as the supporting investigations proposed by the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure raised concern with Council. The analysis ultimately highlighted numerous concerns regarding the potential uplift which could be experienced and its potential impact upon the local environment and

infrastructure. The Minister later withdrew the project due to implications associated with the Planning and Design Code.

Gawler Rail Electrification Project

The \$615m Gawler Rail Electrification Project (GREP), being delivered by Acciona on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), includes the electrification of the entire Gawler Line and the purchase of electric trains. Specific to Gawler is the replacement of the existing vehicular King Street Bridge with a new pedestrian and cycling bridge. Council staff have been working with DIT and Acciona to provide feedback on the technical, detailed design drawing packages for the new King Street Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge, the surrounding landscaping upgrades and local road / traffic infrastructure alterations.

Some of the key changes include the alteration of King Street from one way to two way (from the bridge), which was in response to requests from residents during the stakeholder engagement period. Staff advocated for funding towards improved amenity inclusions as part of the King Street bridge development and are working with the State Government's Department of Infrastructure and Transport to deliver these works. The project required removals and pruning of significant, regulated and amenity trees and vegetation to ensure electrical clearance compliance for the overhead wires and other requirements. DIT/Acciona and Council worked together to minimise the extent of vegetation removals required at the design, survey and construction stages of the project.

To compensate Council for the loss of trees and vegetation, DIT/Acciona have implemented a 'visual impact assessment methodology' which categorized the vegetation based on the visual amenity impact to adjacent properties. Council then received compensation funds of \$203,000 for the removals, which has now been allocated in the 2021/22 Annual Budget. This new project will look to offset the impacts with new street tree planting and amenity improvements around the rail corridor, including the key impacted areas.



Murray Street Upgrade Stage 7

OUR GROWTH - Key Achievements

New Apex Park Toilet

A new public toilet planned for Apex Park Redevelopment is part of the Walker Place Gawler Central Urban Precinct Project which was the recipient of \$1,006,361 from the State Government's Places for People grant scheme. The toilet block was designed and contracted in 20-21 ready for delivery in the first quarter of 2021/22 Financial Year. The new toilet block will feature two uni-sex accessible toilet cubicles each with baby change facilities and two uni-sex toilets. The project has sought to minimise any impact to the State Heritage listed Moreton Bay fig trees adjacent to the new toilet as part of the design and delivery of the project.

New Martins Place Toilet

The new public toilet planned for Martin's Place aligns the Urban Central Design framework endorsed by Council in 2017. The project is partially funded through a \$100,000 grant from the South Australian Government's Department for Human Services 'Changing Places' scheme, and \$100,000 of the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Phase 2) funding.

The new toilet block will include a uni-sex ambulant toilet cubicle, uni-sex accessible cubicle and a Changing Places adult change room facility. The Changing Places cubicle is a special unit that provides a toilet facility for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets. They have an adult sized change table, ceiling hoist and customised toilet. This Changing Places facility will be most northern facility in South Australia and is accessible by using a MLAK key. This key is readily available to those disabled community members who require this level of facility, including at Council's nearby customer services counters as per details to be provided on the unit. The new toilet block will open in September 2021.

Mural Pocket Park

The new Mural Pocket Park has progressed in 2020/21 opposite the Walker Place plaza. The park has been designed to create a new open space that improves the connection of the Town Centre to the South Para River. The park will feature landscaping, seating, lighting and a new structural wall for the ceramic mural created by community art group in the 1990s to be re-installed.

Black Spot Project - High Street/ Lyndoch Road

The design was developed following 17 crashes over the past 5 year period with 14 of the crashes resulting from right turn movements at the High Street intersection. The new pedestrian crossing assists to reduce the risk of right turn crashes and facilitates the safe crossing of pedestrians and cyclists across Lyndoch Road. This project was funded through the Federal Government's Blackspot Program.

The new crossing also aligns with a strategic cycle route between The Barossa Trail and the Stuart O'Grady bikeway through the Town Centre.

Playground Shade Structures

Shade structures are being installed at four (4) playgrounds funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. The structural posts for the shade structures were completed at Apex Park and Fifth Street playgrounds as well as the Willaston Nature Playspace. The shade forms will be installed at these playgrounds in the first quarter of the 2021/22 Financial Year. The final shade structure will be installed at the Hemaform Grove playground redevelopment in late 2021.

Renew Hardscaping – Dawson Road Pathway Solar LED Lighting

The recent Dawson Road Pathway project included supply and install of a LED Solar design solution which complies with Australian Standards. This upgrade has improved the pathway lighting considerably and supports crime prevention.



Black Spot Project - High Street/Lyndoch Road

OUR GROWTH - Key Achievements

New Footpath Program

In 2020/21 Council had budgeted \$323,000 for New Footpaths to be constructed around the the Township. With the assistance of further economic stimulus by the Federal Government through its Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (Phase1) was developed which entailed another \$223,000 resulting in over \$546,000 invested in new footpath infrastructure.

Footpaths constructed included:

- Foord Avenue from East Tce to Duldig Avenue
- Duldig Av from Calton Rd to Foord Av
- Duldig Av from Foord Av to Harradine Rd
- Harradine Street from Kemp St to south end of Harradine St
- Taylor St from Calton Ave to Barossa A
- Trevu Avenue from Calton Ave to Barossa Avenue
- Carr Street from Mckinlay Ave to Dawes Drive
- Dawes Drive from Carr Street to End
- Overway Bridge road from Dean Street to 10 Overway Bdge
- Sixth Street from Eleventh St to Adelaide Rd
- Sixteenth Street from Thirteenth Street to Glenelg Lane
- Sixteenth Street from Fourteenth Street to Thirteenth Street
- Sixteenth street from Fifteenth St to Fourteenth St
- Wright Street from 5 Wright St to Howard St
- Gawler Terrace from Mount Terrace to Snowy Court
- Alexander from Roundabout to Sunnyside Drive

Bus Stop DDA Upgrades

In 2020-21 Council has continued to fulfill their commitment to upgrade all bus stops to meet Disability Standards for Accessible Transport by December 2022. The works commenced this year and will be completed in the first quarter of 2021/22 Financial Year. The outcomes continue to help improve public transport accessibility for the whole of Gawler's community.

Heritage Advisory Services

In 2020/21 a free Local Heritage Advisory Service continued to be offered to the community via external consultancy services in order to assist in delivering quality planning outcomes. This Local Heritage Advisory Service was also used by the administration to provide advice to the Council Assessment Panel when considering the appropriateness of development involving both Local Heritage Places and Contributory Items.

Heritage Grant Schemes

Council offers a grant of up to \$1,500 to assist owners of Local Heritage and Contributory Places with conservation work. During the 2020/21 financial year Council approved four Local Heritage Grant applications from members of the community totaling \$5,265. This is an increase from the previous year when a three grants were awarded to the combined value of \$4,500.

Council also offers a Historic Walls Grant to assist property owners in repairing and maintaining historic walls located throughout Gawler. In 2020/21 two grants were awarded totaling \$1,542.

Development Assessment Services

Development Application numbers have increased significantly overall, with 1137 applications submitted in 2020/21, compared to 617 received in 2019/2020, representing an 84% increase. The increased development activity in the town has been driven by new residential development, with 554 new dwellings applied for in 2020/21 compared to 173 new dwellings in 2019/20, a 220% increase. This increase is due to several new land development stages being released in 2019/20, coupled with a strong real estate market increasing housing demand, which has been further fueled by the Federal Government's HomeBuilder Grant.

Minor domestic development activity has also noticeably increased, with 279 applications for sheds, verandahs, carports and similar structures received in 2020/21, a 52% increase on the previous year when 183 applications were received for these structure types.

A total of 45 Development Applications were brought before the Council Assessment Panel during 2020/21, similar to the 46 we received in 2019/20. 35 (78%) were granted Development Plan Consent, eight (18%) were refused, and two (4%) were deferred, compared to 29 Developments applications (63%) granted Development Plan Consent, seven (15%) refused, and four (9%) deferred in 2019/20.

Design for Gawler Oval Car Park Upgrade

Existing car park surface is at the end of serviceable life and stormwater drainage is problematic. Council engaged a consultant and prepared a design for upgrading car park to current standards. The design includes an upgraded car park to disability access, more car parking, safe pedestrian access path, dedicated players area, stormwater drainage improvements, solar LED lighting, electric power supply upgrade provisions and water sensitive urban design practices. The design was developed in consultation with precinct stakeholders. The future works to upgrade the carpark as per the design will be implemented subject to Council's future funding allocation.

Gawler Business Development Group

The Gawler Business Development Group (GBDG) is contracted by Council under a funding agreement to assist with promoting and marketing the businesses within the Town of Gawler. Council provides the GDBG with annual funding in the amount of the Separate Rate levied against commercial and industrial properties in accordance with Council's Strategic Rating Policy. In 2020/21 the funding amount provided to the GBDG is \$179,211 excluding GST.

OUR GROWTH - Key Achievements

The GBDG has met its obligations under the funding agreement for the 2020/2021 financial year, providing Council with regular quarterly reports and a copy of its annual report for the 2020/2021 financial year.

Key achievements reported by GBDG include:

- 4519 business assists/ engagements
- Providing regular updates to their members regarding the pandemic restrictions and opportunities for training, business support initiatives and grants provided by the Government
- SA Business Conference coordination

Regional Development Australia Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains (RDA BGLAP)

Council remains an active participant and member of RDA BGLAP. Its charter is to encourage investment and job creation opportunities in the region which includes The Barossa, Light Regional and Adelaide Plains Councils and Town of Gawler. RDA BGLAP receives annual financial contributions from each of the regional councils as well as funding support from both the State and Federal Governments. This year, Town of Gawler contributed \$40,080 to RDA BGLAP.

Business Innovation Hub

The Business Innovation Hub (Hub) within the Gawler Civic Centre remained externally operated by Mr Andrew Morris for the entire financial year. The financial year concluded with Hub membership at capacity, with new memberships only available for casual members. Complementary, part-time membership continued to be provided to GBDG and RDA Barossa, Gawler, Light, Adelaide Plains.

Paid memberships across the year came from a range of business and entrepreneurial industries including financial services, digital marketing, google analytics, enterprise layer software solutions, energy consultancy, employment services, talent acquisition, financial advisory, business consulting, food, retail, tourism, environmental, research and development, and higher education. The Hub continued to engage with GigCity and SABRENet as a GigCity Precinct and partner with BRACE Education to deliver an entrepreneurial start up business case development program that fed directly to ThincLab's programs.

Gawler Economic Development Strategy

Council adopted the Gawler Economic Development Strategy in February 2021, providing a pathway for the community, business sector and Council to work together in providing a more prosperous future for Gawler. Council was successful in securing a grant of \$20,000 through the Federal Governments Building Better Regions Fund to develop an economic development strategy for Gawler. Council sought input from Stakeholders, Local Business and the Community to help identify the strengths and opportunities that can be leveraged to build economic prosperity, improve job

opportunities and provide a vibrant and diverse economy of a growing regional centre, to be enjoyed for those living or visiting the area. The Strategy identifies actions for delivery under 6 key Pillars of focus being;

- 1 Mainstreet Activation
- 2 Marketing and Promotion
- 3 Economic Internationalisation
- 4 Physical and Virtual Clusters
- 5 Regional Collaboration
- 6 Regional Investment

The Strategy will be delivered over the next 4-5 years.

Interstate and Regional visitors to the Cultural Heritage Research Centre

More than 350 people visited the Cultural Heritage Research Centre during the financial year. Most of these people wanted to learn more about their family history or information about historical property or businesses in Gawler. In October 2020 Council Staff began to collect the postcodes of visitors in order to better understand the research community that the Centre is serving and the impact of cultural heritage tourism on Gawler.

Visitors to the Research Centre are predominantly local however we drew intrastate visitors from Mt Gambier, Port Pirie, Adelaide Hills, Barossa and Adelaide.

Interstate researchers also connected with the Centre with 6 researchers from Victoria, 3 from Queensland, 2 from New South Wales, 2 from Tasmania, 1 from the Northern Territory and 4 from Western Australia.



Cultural Heritage Centre



The following is a reflection of the Key Achievements relating to Goal 3 - A Healthy, Active, Safe, Engaged Community. The more significant Key Achievements for Goal 3 are featured on the next few pages.

- OBJECTIVE 3.1** Gawler to be an inclusive community with quality health and social wellbeing services to meet the needs of our growing community
- Home Assist Program
 - Youth Artist Sponsorship Program
 - School Holiday Programs
 - Public Health and Food Safety
 - Public Health and COVID-19
 - Immunisation Services
 - Gawler Civic Centre Events
 - Gawler Library Services
 - Youth Urban Arts Program
- OBJECTIVE 3.2** Provide sporting and recreational facilities to meet local and regional community needs
- Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan
 - Essex Park & Gawler Showgrounds Regional Sporting Precinct Master Plan
 - Council Stimulus Program

- Sporting Organisations (Lease Holders) & Community Facility Upgrades
- Gawler Aquatic Centre
 - Gawler Sport and Community Centre and Gawler Elderly Centre
 - HemaFord Reserve Playspace Upgrade
 - Visitor Information Centre – Lift Integration and Fitout
 - Aquatic Centre Stage 5 rehabilitation works
- OBJECTIVE 3.3** Recognise, respect, support and advocate on behalf of volunteers
- Volunteering with Gawler Council
 - Volunteer Recognition Events
 - Gawler Civic Centre Tour Guide and Greeters
 - Cultural Heritage Centre Volunteers
 - Gawler Visitor Information Centre

- OBJECTIVE 3.4** Encourage the development of the Arts and creative sector
- Civic Centre Youth Space
 - Events
 - Gawler Reconciliation Action Plan
 - National Reconciliation Week
 - NAIDOC Week
 - Youth Urban Arts Program
 - Youth Artist Sponsorship Program
 - Civic Centre Art Exhibitions

Home Assist Program
The Home Assist Program is an externally funded program that enables the provision of basic home support services which are aimed at keeping eligible residents living independently within their own communities.

Funding from the Commonwealth Government supports those aged 65 years plus, who are registered with My Aged Care. The State Government funded support for those aged under 65 and living with disability.

In the 2020/21 period, the Home Assist program provided support to 673 individuals, approximately 95% of which were aged. Of those who received a service, 225 were new to the Program – a 15% increase on the previous year. During the year, Councils Home Assist Program provided:

- 6833 hours of cleaning and domestic assistance
- 2019 hours of visiting and social contact
- 1797 hours of minor home maintenance and gardening services
- \$3327 of home modifications installed

In addition:

- 191 client welfare checks were completed and
- 295 new My Aged Care service referrals were processed

Throughout this period, there have been a number of amendments that have occurred within the program, predominantly in response to funding and availability of services in the region. Program Officers worked in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government to renegotiate funding outputs to enable the Program to better respond to changing needs and community demands. This resulted in the realignment of funded outputs for each service type.

In addition, the State Governments Home and Community Care Program (HACC) ended on 30 April 2021 after operating for more than 30 years. Until its cessation, Council Officers worked in conjunction with the Department to help transition registered clients into other available programs, where applicable. Recent announcements made as a result

of the 2021 Federal Budget have indicated that the Aged Care sector remains an area that will continue to undergo significant reforms within the coming years. This will drive the future direction of the how the Home Assist Program will continue to operate in coming years.

Youth Sportsperson Sponsorship Program
The purpose of the Youth Sports Person Sponsorship Program is to recognise and encourage the achievements of young people aged 12-25 years of age in our community by providing sponsorship for State and National representation in sporting activities. In 2020/2021, the Youth Sports Person Sponsorship Program was severely affected by the impact of COVID-19 with a reduction in opportunities for young people to participate in elite sporting programs. At the end of June 2021 Council supported one young person with a sponsorship to a total of \$100.

School Holiday Programs
During this financial year 2020/2021, Council delivered 37 school holiday programs through the Gawler Youth Space with 983 young people attending these programs.

A variety of programs were offered providing a range of social and skill development in areas of interest to young people. Skill programs focus on gaining entry-level skills where a certificate, skill or qualification can be attained in areas of Barista, Responsible Service of Alcohol, White card, Child Safe Environment, First Aid and Preparing to Drive. 167 Youth participated in a skill development program in the Youth Space in 2020/2021.

The Gawler Youth Advisory Committee supported Bike Month in the April school holidays. Another highlight in the April school holidays was the COVID-19 Recovery Workshop held at the Civic Centre. 34 children and young people attended this workshop with the Commissioner for Children and Young People. Focus was on solutions and strategies at local, community and state levels on issues important to children and young people, particularly post Covid-19.



Golden Land Exhibition

OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

Public Health and Food Safety

The Environmental Health team continued to deliver services to residents, visitors and workers including inspection of food premises, auditing of food safety programs, licensing of supported residential facilities, inspections of public pools, and assessment of 127 wastewater works applications and inspections, registration of warm water systems (cooling towers) and general health and food complaints. Throughout the year Environmental Health Officer's worked closely with local business owners and community to provide up to date information relating to Public Health. All food businesses within Gawler were inspected during the year based on their food risk rating.

Assessment of wastewater works applications, registration of warm water systems (cooling towers) and general health and food complaints. Throughout the year Environmental Health Officer's worked closely with local business owners and community to provide up to date information relating to Public Health. During this year, the Environmental Health Team conducted 273 food premises inspections, audits and follow-ups, inspected 19 pools and dealt with 12 food complaints.

Public Health and COVID-19

The impact from COVID-19 restrictions resulted in Councils Environmental Health Officer's liaising with our business community in disseminating information relative to COVID-19 and undertaking inspections to check for compliance with restrictions implemented by the State Government under numerous Emergency Management Directions. 178 COVID response visits were conducted on declared businesses to check for compliance with COVID restrictions.

Immunisation Services

The Town of Gawler Immunisation provider conducted three Council clinics for the community during each month of the financial year. The clinics are held at the Gawler Sport and Community Centre. The Immunisation Nurses also attended each of the schools in the Council area providing vaccinations to students' in line with the School Immunisation Program Schedule. The Immunisation Nurse also conducted Workplace Flu Clinics for council staff, volunteers, local businesses and local schools.



Graffiti Removal Team Volunteer

undertaken to refine the project's implementation, most notably in relation to the development of concept plans and cost estimates for an increasingly staged project delivery.

In March 2021, Council was successful in obtaining \$900,000 in external funding for Stage 1 of the Karbeethan Reserve Redevelopment. The project, with a total budget of \$1.951million will provide upgraded sporting facilities at the Reserve, including for the first time the provision of lights for sporting codes who utilise Karbeethan, with the installation of LED sports lights across three pitches. The implementation of the project will commence with onsite works during 2021/22.

Gawler Civic Centre

Volunteers have played an important and valued role in the redeveloped Civic centre across a number of the various operation areas. Tour Guide and Greeters spent 124 hours in this role as the first point of contact to visitors and residents during rostered shifts. Volunteers provided professional, personalised and informative guided tours of the State Heritage listed Town of Gawler Institute and Town Hall to 102 people. An additional objective was to promote Gawler Civic Centre activities, Town of Gawler highlights and surrounding regions' offerings, and encourage visitors to experience these with extra knowledge provided.

The Cultural Heritage Centre Volunteers have worked hard throughout the year caring for and sharing the Gawler Heritage Collection with the community. These volunteers help staff with a variety of tasks including cataloguing, research, education programs and exhibition preparation. The number of volunteers grew from seven to 12 and they had contributed 1289 work hours by the conclusion of the 20/21 year.

Youth Urban Arts Program

The Youth Urban Arts Program has seen some talented young musicians and singers perform live at the Gawler Fringe in Walker Place and the Fringe in the Park event. Fringe 2021 also allowed the Gawler Youth, Gawler Environment Centre, and the Gawler Youth Advisory Committee to come together creating a large piece of colourful art out of recycled T-Shirts (Rag-Rug) displayed and used in the Youth Space daily. Members of the Youth Advisory Committee learnt and taught local young people to make bracelets from recycled computer cables.

Youth Artist Sponsorship Program

The purpose of the Youth Artist Sponsorship Program is to recognise and encourage the achievements of young people aged 12-25 years in our community by providing sponsorship to develop their chosen art form. These may include but not be limited to traditional media such as paintings and drawings, photography, acting, and film. In 2020/2021, the Youth Artist Sponsorship Program was

OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

severely affected by the impact of COVID-19 and many art programs were suspended during this time. With this, a reduction in opportunities existed in our community, and no applications were received in the 2020/2021 period.

Essex Park & Gawler Showgrounds Regional Sporting Precinct Master Plan

The Essex Park and Gawler Showgrounds precinct is the largest sporting and active recreation zone within Gawler. It incorporates key Council community facilities – Gawler Aquatic Centre and Gawler Sport & Community Centre, as well as significant community sporting and recreation infrastructure. The development of a Master Plan for these heavily utilised community assets, will allow both Council and leaseholders to upgrade and improve facilities in a strategic, coordinated and planned manner.

Consultation on the draft Master Plan was held with the community during January and February 2021, with the outcomes presented to Council for consideration in March. The Essex Park & Gawler Showgrounds Regional Sporting Precinct Master Plan was formally adopted by Council in May 2021. Council has already been successful in attracting \$356,500 in external funding through the State Government's Open Space and Places for People program to assist with the delivery of the first component of the Master Plan – Princes Park Community Recreation Hub Stage 1. Council will continue to actively seek further opportunities to attract external funding to partner in the delivery of the \$129.2million project that will provide significant opportunities for, and benefits from active and passive recreation for the local community.

Council Stimulus Program – Sporting Organisations (Lease Holders) & Community Facility Upgrades

A significant component of Council's 2020/21 budget was the incorporation of a \$2million Economic Stimulus Package in response to the immediate and ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to the local community.

A \$200,000 Stimulus Package was provided to local sporting organisations that lease facilities from Council to assist them in undertaking minor upgrades, repairs or replacement to infrastructure that directly affects their provision of safe, functional, and fit for purpose active recreation and sporting facilities for the local community. The following sporting leaseholder organisations received funding through this program:

- Gawler & District Netball Association
- Gawler & District Tennis Association
- Gawler BMX Club
- Gawler Bowling Club
- Gawler Central Sporting Club
- Gawler Petanque Club
- Karbeethan Sporting Association
- South Gawler Football Club
- Willaston Football Club

An \$80,000 Stimulus Package was provided to local community organisations that lease facilities from Council to assist them in undertaking minor upgrades, repairs or replacement to infrastructure that directly affects their provision of safe, functional, and fit for purpose facilities for the local community. The following community leaseholder organisations received funding through this program:

- Evanston Gardens Progress Association
- Gawler Community House
- Gawler Dog Training Club
- Gawler River Pony Club
- Gawler Scouts Group
- Meals on Wheels
- Para District Invitational Homing Pigeon Club
- Willo's Men's Shed

Gawler Aquatic Centre

On the 10th October 2020, the 58th season of the Gawler Aquatic Centre was officially opened by Mayor Redman. An opening celebration was held with 350 people attending including Dignitaries, Council Members, Stakeholders and members of the community. The upgrades to the Centre were unveiled which included refurbishment of all changing room areas to offer family friendly change room spaces, compliant for all users. Part of the formalities of the opening included the cutting of a ribbon at the newly installed mounted diving blocks. These blocks were purchased by the Gawler Amateur Swimming Club with funds from the Club and together with an 'Upgrade Active Club Program Grant' through the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Club President, Therese Willis presented the newly installed Mounted Diving Blocks to the Council. A memorial plaque was also unveiled by the family of Mr Derek Sankey. Mr Sankey was a much loved regular user of the Gawler Aquatic Centre and the memorial chair with the plaque overlooks the main pool.

Attendance for the 2020/2021 season saw a total of 58,834 people enjoy the facilities. This was a 2.55% increase in attendance from the previous season. Overall attendance was impacted by the Covid-19 lockdown in November 2020 and the subsequent restrictions in place on recreational swimming, club training and the Learn to swim lessons.

The centre was originally scheduled to close on the 1 April 2021 but due to unseasonably warm weather over the Easter long weekend operations were extended until its close on 5 April 2021. The Learn to Swim school saw an increase of 17% of total enrolments on the previous year. The largest increase was in the VACSwim program with a 30.1% increase on the previous season. For the second season the Gawler Aquatic Centre accepted the very popular vouchers from the Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing to the value of \$100 towards swimming lessons for Primary School Aged children. A total of 223 vouchers were redeemed, up from 139 to previous

OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

season and provided financial incentive to families by helping to make swimming lessons affordable.

- Some of the 2019/2020 Season highlights include:
- Learn to Swim program reaching greater than 80% capacity and the implementation of a waiting list.
 - The Swimming and Water Safety Program for local, public primary and junior primary school children provided 9,610 lessons throughout the season. Although this is a reduction from the previous season due to Covid-19 restrictions it still represents an invaluable resource to primary school aged children.
 - The change room upgrades that saw the main building facilities modernized and offering disability compliant and family friendly change rooms

Gawler Sport and Community Centre and Gawler Elderly Centre

Gawler Sport and Community Centre and the Gawler Elderly Centre are home to a large range of community groups who meet regularly to get together for their varied recreational activities. 2020/2021 saw 77,829 visitors attend these popular facilities to engage in educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment.

Council run programs, Gentle Fitness and Skating Programs continue to grow in popularity and participants. During 2020/2021, 1,252 participants attended Gentle fitness classes representing an increase of 42.76% when compared to the previous year. A total of 11,328 participants attended a skating program in 2020/2021. This represents an increase of 4826 from the previous year. Theme skating nights are well attended and popular with the community and school holiday programs have



Gawler Aquatic Centre

contributed to the increase together with the growing promotion of the program to the local community. The recent refurbishment of the stadium made possible by Council together with funding through the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing's Sporting Surfaces program has benefited all users of the Stadium with the upgrade including floor re-surfacing, line marking and the installation of new netting. A reduction in the Covid-19 restrictions when compared to the previous year continues to attract the community to the facility.

Hemaford Reserve Playspace Upgrade

Following successful grant funding under the Commonwealth Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Council commenced design of the Hemaford Reserve Playspace Upgrade in consultation with the local community. The upgrade includes a new irrigated turf kickabout space, scooter track, playground equipment, boulder scramble, carousel, picnic table and landscaped plantings that match in with the existing reserve area and have been informed by feedback received during the consultation phase. Construction of the playspace upgrade will occur in the 2021-22 financial year.

Visitor Information Centre – Lift Integration and Fitout

In December 2020 Council endorsed the allocation of \$569,970 for the design and installation of a DDA compliant lift in the Gawler Visitor Information Centre as part of the creation of an art gallery space on the first floor. This project is fully funded through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2. Project planning and design development was undertaken in 2020-21 to progress the design and delivery of this project in 2021-22.

OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

Aquatic Centre Stage 5 rehabilitation works
The annual rehabilitation works included the delivery of 2 new shade umbrellas which provide spectators with UV protection by the pool. The pool covers were also upgraded with an under bench insulated cover that provides improved thermal retention, saving on pool heating costs and reducing CO2 emissions.

Volunteering with Gawler Council

Volunteers are often considered as the glue that help keep our communities together. Whilst Gawler as a community boasts a range of volunteer opportunities, with a diverse range of organisations, Council also maintains its own volunteer program. Volunteers help Council to deliver a range of its services and programs and operates across both the Library and Community Services division, as well as the Business Enterprises and Communications division.

In 2020/21, there were 105 active volunteers registered in Council programs. Collectively, they volunteered 6354 hours across a range of programs and services, including the:

- Civic Centre
- Clock Tower
- Cultural Heritage Centre
- Events
- Graffiti Removal Program
- Home Assist Program
- Library
- Recreation Program
- Visitor Information Centre
- Youth Space / Program

COVID has had a long lasting impact on the volunteer sector across the Nation. Overall, there has been a slight decline in volunteer number and hours in comparison

to previous years. However, there have been two areas which have defied this and shown growth. These are the Cultural Heritage Centre, which has seen volunteers undertake a number of research and project roles, some of which have been able to be delivered remotely. The other is the Home Assist program, which has seen the reintroduction of a volunteer based social support program to benefit the elderly.

Volunteer Recognition Events

In December 2020, four volunteers were acknowledged for contributing 10 or more years of service to the Town of Gawler. At the annual end of year volunteer celebration two volunteers were recognised for their 10 years, one for 15 years and one for 20 years of continuous service to Council.

In addition, Council continues to participate in National Volunteer Week celebrations. In May, a morning tea was held for all registered volunteers, which acknowledged the significant contribution that they continue to make to Council, its programs and services. In addition, there was a strong social media campaign held over this time that aimed to recognise and promote Volunteering with Council.

Gawler Visitor Information Centre

The Gawler Visitor Information Centre assisted with 9,000 visitor enquiries a decrease on previously years, attributable to COVID-19. These enquiries could not be serviced without the amazing contribution of the 28 volunteers who generously gave up their time to welcome visitors to Gawler. During 2020/21 they provided 3,500 hours sharing their passion of our town, encouraging visitors to stay longer and experience all that Gawler has to offer.



NAIDOC Week event

OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

Specialised Guided tours are also delivered through the Visitor Information Centre with the assistance a small group of professionally trained volunteers who recognise the wealth of history within our town through a range of walking tours and present a heritage tour of our town to private bus tours.

Civic Centre Youth Space

The Gawler Youth Space has provided a safe space for young people aged 8-25 years to attend free term programs and free/subsidised school holiday programs. With a focus on Health and Wellbeing, young people had many opportunities to engage in fun/skilled social activities in a safe, supported environment. The Gawler Youth Advisory Committee helps guide the direction and development of the Youth Space programs.

The Youth Space is home to the Gawler and District Youth Workers Network (Child-friendly focus). Meeting regularly with diverse groups of child and youth providers allows members to access local knowledge and opportunities for young people within our community.

Youth Space memberships (used for afterschool term programs) capture regular uses of the space and allow future planning around the young people interests and wellbeing. At the end of 2020 calendar year, the Youth Space had 99 members. Ending the financial year, June 2021, the Youth Space had 74 members registered. Considering the effects of COVID-19 on the community/state in 2020/2021, the memberships and usage of the space have remained positive.

Gawler Reconciliation Action Plan

The Gawler Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) outlines practical actions that Council and its partners are taking to build strong relationships and enhanced respect with Aboriginal people from across the region. The RAP ensures that staff, Council Members, volunteers and members of the community are able to contribute to the reconciliation process. The RAP framework is based on the three key areas of Relationships, Respect and Opportunities. The Gawler Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group comprises representation from across the organisation and the local community, with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal representatives. The RAP is a Reconciliation Australia endorsed document. The RAP Working Group are currently in the process of developing Council's second RAP document.

National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is an opportunity to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The 2021 theme was 'More than a word. Reconciliation takes action'. Council was actively involved in the planning and implementation of annual reconciliation events held during NRW.

In 2021, the Kadlitiya Kids Day was held at the Gawler Sport and Community Centre. The day saw around 500 primary school students participate in Kaurna language workshops, arts activities and Q&A session with local Aboriginal community members and Elders. Nunga Screen was also held at the Gawler Civic Centre during NRW. Nunga Screen is a free short film showcase that shares and celebrates First Nations culture, stories and language, through film culture.

Events

Community events encourage a sense of place and excitement, and provide an opportunity for increased community interaction, celebration and gathering.

Council organises events such as the Gawler Fringe and SA Youth Week, providing significant in kind contribution towards a range of community driven events including but not limited to:

- Annual Reconciliation Community Event
- Gawler Show
- Christmas Carols (delivered as Santa's Workshop)
- Australia Day
- ANZAC and Remembrance Day (proceeded as small invited guest ceremonies only)
- NAIDOC Week Events
- Rotary Village Fair (unfortunately cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19)

Council provides significant support to events organised and delivered by the Gawler community. This broad support includes assistance across the following areas:

- Event planning and management
- Event logistics
- Site preparation and remediation
- Issuing event permits
- Regulatory Inspections

Art Exhibitions at the Civic Centre

Diverse and inclusive art exhibitions were held at the Civic Centre throughout the year for access to the public including:

- Pushing Up Daisies, Eco Coffin Project Art Exhibition
- Nunga Screen Film Festival (NAIDOC Week event)
- Arts on the Plains Art Exhibition (Here's Looking At You + Arts In The Right Place + Inspired by Plonk)
- 2020 Mayor's Christmas Card Competition Exhibition
- Hans Heyson Touring Exhibition
- 2020 Gawler Fringe Art Exhibition (From My Place To Gawler + Silverton + April Tea Party)
- Nature's Collage Art Exhibition
- Julia Mannix Retrospective Art Exhibition
- CWA History Exhibition
- Gawler Environment Heritage Association Maps Exhibition
- Nunga Screen Film Festival (Reconciliation Week event)
- NAWMA Information Display
- All-In-For Art (Feros Care) - Art Exhibition (& Expo)

OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week takes place in July. NAIDOC is a time to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Each year Council partners with community to facilitate and host a range of NAIDOC Week activities and events.

Gawler Libraries

The Gawler Libraries provides a modern, accessible and welcoming library service to the community. It is a member of the South Australian Public Library 'One Card' network, which connects more than 130 public libraries across the state.

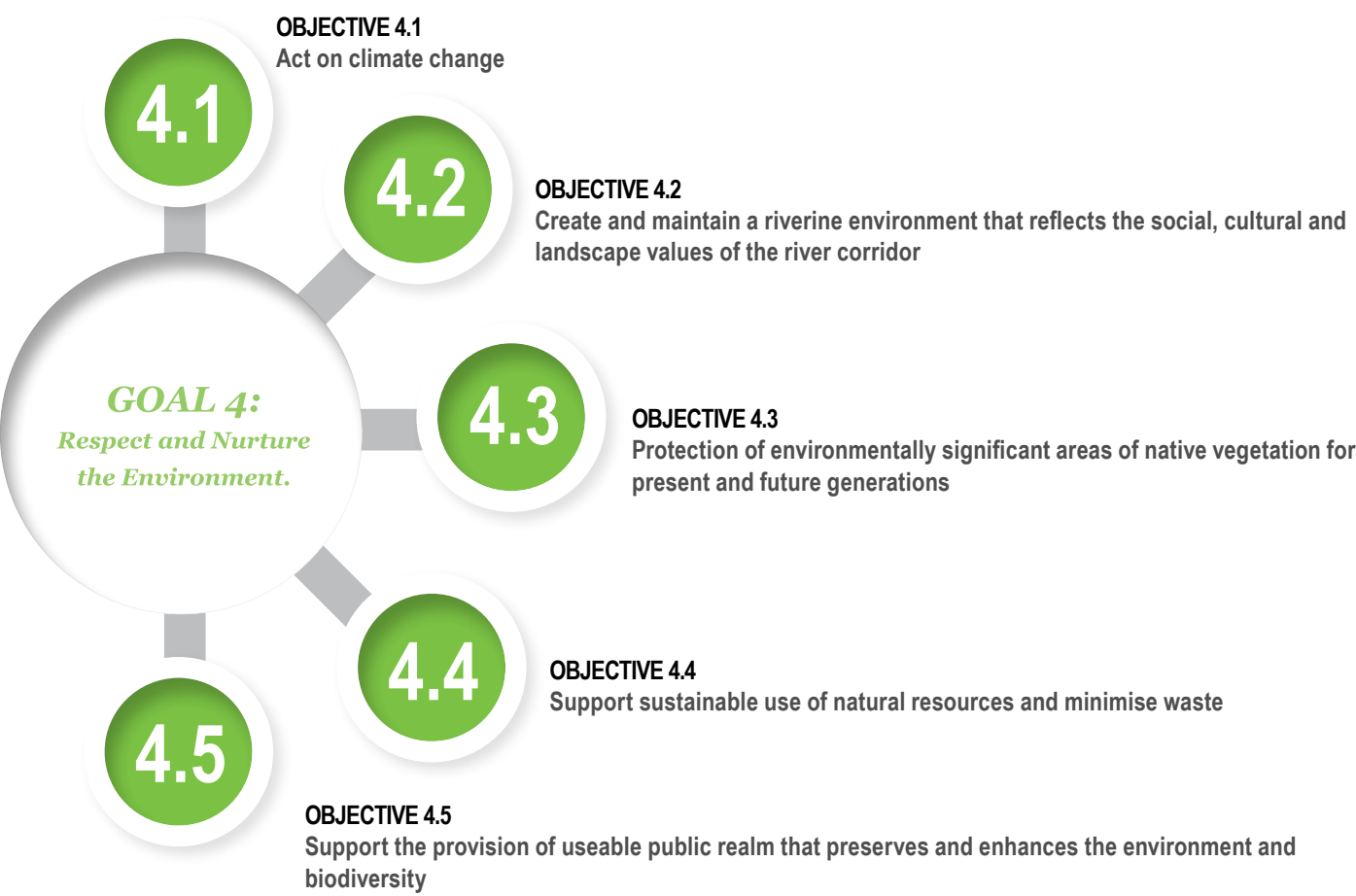
The Gawler Libraries consist of two branches, the Civic Centre Library and the Evanston Gardens Library. It also offers a Home Visits service, which delivers library materials to people who live in the community, but cannot come into the Library for a variety of reasons. In 2020-21, the Library offered a range of programs and events for children and adults, including author events, Tiny Tales (early childhood literacy sessions), Story Time sessions in parks and at the Gawler Aquatic Centre, after-school craft activities, Book Clubs, regular adult craft and community information sessions, regular digital literacy webinars for adults, and regular school holiday activities.

In a special event this year, the Evanston Gardens Library celebrated its 10th birthday, originally opening in May 2011. The Library also takes part in wider community events such as Gawler Fringe, Adelaide Writers' Week, Harmony Day and NAIDOC Week. COVID-19 impacted Library services in 2020-21.

Programs and events were temporarily suspended, when required by state restrictions. To help keep Library borrowers engaged and up to date with the latest Library news and events, a monthly newsletter, Shelf Talk, was launched in August 2020. It has been particularly helpful for customers who are not online and are unable to interact with the Library's social media.



Hans Heyson Touring Exhibition



The following is a reflection of the Key Achievements relating to Goal 4 - Respect and Nurture the Environment. The more significant Key Achievements for Goal 4 are featured on the next few pages.

OBJECTIVE 4.1 Act on climate change

- Climate Emergency Action Plan

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

- Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority
- Gawler Urban Rivers Biodiversity Program
- Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Committee
- Flood Safe
- Fire Prevention Program

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

- Regulated Trees and Native vegetation
- Springwood Development Application Assessment
- Street Tree Condition & Risk Audit (Tree Plotter advanced tree management software)
- Street Tree Planting Program
- Gum Tree Plaza Permeable Paving
- Open Space Management

OBJECTIVE 4.4 Support sustainable use of natural resources and minimise waste

- Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority
- Hard Waste

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

- Land Division Processes
- Hindmarsh Boulevard Landscape Amenity Improvements
- Schomburgk Drive Tree Planting
- Coleman Parade Low Flow Basin Water Sensitive Design
- Backyard Biodiversity – Plant Giveaway

Climate Emergency Action Plan
The Town of Gawler in 2019, was the first Council in South Australia to declare a climate emergency and urged action by all levels of government to address the climate emergency. Council is developing its Climate Emergency Action Plan to reduce its emissions, support community in reducing their emissions and continue to adapt to our changing climate, extreme events and climate related risks.

The draft Climate Emergency Action Plan will be released for public consultation during 2021, but through the process to develop the Plan with the Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group, Council has already identified feasible opportunities and is taking action including:

- **PUBLIC LIGHTING** - Preparing a business case and committing to replace Gawler’s street lighting with more efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology that will result in major cost and energy reductions, saving Council up to \$200,000 per year in operational costs (\$120,000 per year with depreciation)
- **ELECTRICITY PROCUREMENT** - Initiating an Electricity Working Group across Councils to collaborate with LGA Procurement and seek 100% renewable electricity options as part of the next group electricity procurement contract
- **ON SITE SOLAR** - Installing renewable electricity systems on the Gawler Civic Centre and the Evanston Gardens library. These build on the current success of the installations on the Gawler Civic Centre and Sports and community centre which save money and reduce emissions
- **RENEWABLE PLAN AND PROGRAM** - Undertaking a Renewable Electricity Plan and Program review to identify the best locations for on-site renewable electricity and options for a larger solar farm that would potentially meet Gawler Council’s net electricity needs
- **ELECTRIC VEHICLES** - Preparing to trial full electric light vehicles, updating Councils recharging stations and evaluating the recharging needs for vehicles as appropriate to their daily use. This is essential to assure staff that recharging will be managed to assure vehicles are useable when required
- **ADVOCACY** - Advocating on a state and National level for reforms to renewable energy accounting so that Councils, households and small to medium businesses have better access to affordable accredited renewable electricity

Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority
The Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority (GRFMA) was formed as a Regional Subsidiary under Section 43 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1999 on 22 August 2002. The Constituent Councils are the Adelaide Hills Council, The Adelaide Plains Council, The Barossa Council, The Town of Gawler, Light Regional Council, and the City of Playford. The GRFMA Board conducted six (6) Ordinary meetings and convened two (2) Special meetings during the report period. Further, the GRMA’s Audit Committee met on four (4) occasions.

Key Achievements of the GRFMA during this period were:

- A Charter Review - Stage 2 commenced exploring options for governance frameworks and alternate methodologies for calculation of contributions to maintenance and substantial capital works. The Charter review remains under consideration by the GRFMA. Subsequent decisions will need to be made by each constituent Council on any changes proposed
- A Strategic Plan was commenced and consultation with constituent Council has occurred. The Plan has not yet been finalised but has been established as a 5 year action based plan
- Gawler River UNHaRMED Management Tool developed in partnership with Bushfire and Hazard CRC and University of Adelaide
- A Stormwater Management Plan for the Gawler River, west of the junction of the North and South Para Rivers was commenced. This project, once completed, will enable State Government funding for mitigation works required to protect the lower Gawler River to be sought
- Bruce Eastick North Para River Flood Mitigation Dam was the subject of an Operation and Safety Plan developed in partnership with the Local Government Association Council Ready Program. Further periodic maintenance repair works to minor structural elements were also undertaken. Scoping for more significant maintenance repairs was completed and a scope of works for tender established which will be performed in the 2021-22 Financial Year
- The State Government allocated \$9M towards a Gawler River Flood Mitigation Project which has been progressed in consultation with the GRFMA and its constituent Councils. The works will fund four (4) ‘No Regrets’ projects across the catchment and also be used to assist develop a Business Case towards further significant flood mitigation project/s in the Gawler Rivers
- Liaison with the Australian Rail Track Corporation on a replacement bridge in the lower Gawler River to ensure Gawler River water flows were appropriately managed in the upgraded outcome

Gawler Urban Rivers Biodiversity Program
Council with the assistance of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board commenced a biodiversity restoration project on part of the South Para river corridor - from the Fourteenth Street Ford to the Gawler Oval precinct.

The aim of the project is to protect and enhance the native vegetation already present as well as to improve the amenity and use of the area. This will be achieved through targeted weed control and then followed up with strategically located plantings of native tube stock to further enhance and beautify the area. Council staff will maintain and water the new plantings giving them the best opportunity of survival.

River reserves are an important feature in rural as well as urban areas as they often contain important, and in some cases the only, remnant native vegetation and native wildlife habitat in an area. However, river reserves can also be a vector for the spread of introduced plants. This project will address this issue by aligning with the priorities in the Town of Gawler's Biodiversity Plan. Weeds that were targeted for control include the following: Giant Reed, Ash trees, African Boxthorn, Wild Olive, Cactus and Peppercorns.

Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Committee
Nominations were sought by the State Bushfire Coordination Committee in April 2021, seeking members to represent the Town of Gawler alongside Emergency Services, State Government agencies and other Local Government Councils abutting the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region. The Committee deals with strategic directions regarding bushfire risk, local area risk assessments, and determines the commencement and conclusion of the bushfire season within Region One of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges. The Team Leader of Community Safety has been appointed as representing



Gawler Urban Rivers Biodiversity Program

member for the Town of Gawler, with a Community Safety Officer appointed as proxy.

Fire Prevention Program
In the lead up to fire danger season, Council's Fire Prevention Officers (FPO'S) utilise many forums to raise awareness of the importance of fire prevention activities. In 2020/21, messages were delivered via roadside signage, social media, local newspaper advertisements, community meetings and direct correspondence with landowners. As a result of the tragic bushfires experience during the 19/20 fire danger season, an independent review was instigated by the state government on 28 January 2020 to assist in planning for future fire seasons.

The review reported the following statistics relating to the 19/20 fire season: 3 fatalities; 278,838 hectares burnt in SA; 196 homes destroyed; livestock lost 67,928; 892 non-residential buildings destroyed or damaged; 660 vehicles lost/damaged; 104 homes with major/minor damage. On a positive note, 1310+ properties were saved by Emergency Services.

When implemented, recommendations from the review will have an impact upon Gawler's future fire prevention strategies, including the development and application of a Code of Practice for fuel hazard reduction on all land tenures. Further consultation will occur through the Bushfire Management Committees to redevelop the Bushfire Management Area Plans (BMAP), along with effective community engagement to build an understanding of risk. This will include the mapping of critical infrastructure such as mobile phone towers as key risks, and will make the BMAP accountable for managing and reporting on region-specific risk.

Property owners continue to be legally obligated under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 to maintain their properties to prevent and/or inhibit the spread of fire

across the land. In the lead up to fire danger season in 2020, 291 early reminder letters were sent to properties who had not complied with their obligations during the previous year. During FPO inspections, there were 84 rural landowners and 127 residential landowners who were not compliant, and issued with a section 105F Notice. Out of those property owners who were issued with notices, 36 landowners were still found to be non-compliant on second inspection and were issued with Expiation Notices to the value of \$315.00 each. In 2021, the Expiation Fee was increased to \$473.00.

Fire Prevention Officers will continue to take a zero tolerance approach to Fire Prevention. Council urges landowners to take responsibility for their land throughout the entire duration of the fire danger season.

Street Tree Condition & Risk Audit (Tree Plotter advanced tree management software)
A Street Tree Data collection and Risk Assessment was undertaken on all street trees within the Council boundary. The project resulted in the identification of the species, health, age range, and photos of more than 10,000 street trees and risk assessments undertaken. A further 5743 tree planting opportunities identified which will inform future tree planting planning. This project provides the necessary background information to inform a future Tree Management Strategy, proposed for consideration of funding in subsequent Annual Budgets.

Street Tree Planting Program
Council staff continues to plant and establish 300+ news street trees each financial year. Once planted the trees undertake a 2-year establishment program which includes, mulching, formative pruning and watering.

Residents have been encouraged to participate in the program and are provided a free water bucket and an information flyer for placing additional water to a newly planted street tree during times of extreme heat in support of the Council's undertakings.

Gum Tree Plaza Permeable Paving
To support the health of a significant tree, estimated to be over 150 years old, on Commercial Lane infiltration pits were constructed in the 2019-20 financial year to allow for manual watering of the tree throughout the year. To further assist with improving the health of the tree a new permeable paving and automated irrigation system was delivered in the 2020-21 financial year along with amenity landscaping works. The project includes new permeable paving, a sub-pavement irrigation system and a wide planting bed at its base along with hardwood seating. The alterations will allow for water infiltration to the tree and oxygen exchange into the tree's root system allowing it to thrive into the future. Final elements of the project be completed in the first quarter of 2021-22 Financial Year and then will be a great space for the community to use as well as promoting water sensitive urban design outcomes.

Open Space Management
As Gawler continues to grow and new housing estates are developed, there will be an increase in the amount of new open space areas vested in the Council for use by the community. The Town of Gawler recognises the benefits of open space to facilitate active and passive recreation as well as promoting other social, health and environmental benefits and has recognised that these areas are required to be developed in a financially sustainable manner given open space is a significant cost to Council's operations.

Council's Open Space Guideline and Biodiversity Management Plan have assisted to inform design outcomes for open space areas in new housing estates as well as for Council capital projects.

The total open space vested in the Town of Gawler grew by 10.64 hectares compared with last financial year, which included 7.21 hectares along the river corridors associated with development, 3.29 hectares associated with new housing estates at Springwood (Highfield) and Aspire as well as 0.14 hectares associated with handover of the Willaston Playspace.

The timing of handover of these new open space areas to Council for ongoing maintenance was a focus and will continue be moving forward relative to annual budget planning.

Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority
Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority (NAWMA) is a Local Government Regional Subsidiary of the Town of Gawler and the Cities of Salisbury and Playford. The 2020-2021 financial year has been one of significant change for NAWMA.

NAMWA has continued to improve its best practice waste management and resource recovery facility through the following initiatives:

- Creating a Circular Economy, and adding value to the Town of Gawler community
- Examining innovative and sustainable practices through the use of recycled material, particularly plastics and glass
- Supporting private investment in developing new products that limit waste diversion to landfill
- Examining environmental best practices initiatives as it relates to soft plastic use in resealing of roads.
- Continue to provide glass and plastics to be utilised as "Reconophalt" a sustainable asphalt mix
- Improve environmental sustainability across all areas of the business undertakings
- Undertake static educational awareness campaigns on waste and recycling
- Maximising annual financial returns to Councils; and
- Establishing reliable markets for sale of processed recyclables

OUR ENVIRONMENT - Key Achievements

The key outcomes for NAWMA will be to establish long term achievements in resource recovery, environmental outcomes, education, food and garden organics and strong social outcomes within the subsidiary Council areas. A number of milestones have been accomplished, including the introduction of the extension of the Hard Waste Service to the Town of Gawler residences.

Hard Waste

Council once again provided a Hard Waste service for residents which was cost effective, maximised ratepayer benefits and achieved sustainable outcomes during 2020-2021. The hard waste management service provided by Council aims to reduce waste that ends up in landfill and raise awareness of the importance of recycling or 'resource recovery'. Hard waste undergoes all available resource recovery to maximise the amount of recyclable material (e.g. metal, timber, masonry, and e-waste) not being sent to landfill.

Council and NAWMA have identified that greater emphasis on improving landfill diversion rates is now required. Initiatives such as introducing recycling and better waste management practices will benefit the community and council. The strategies for greater recycling and the proper use of the Council three bin system will be at the forefront of the proposed scheme. Community engagement and the development of education campaigns will reach all residents and provide clear information on waste management and recycling.



Backyard Biodiversity - Plant Giveaway Day

Council has now supported another hard waste service for the 2021/2022 financial year with ongoing support from its subsidiary NAWMA and its regional partner Eco Waste who receives waste on behalf of NAWMA.

Household battery and mobile phone recycling

The Library continues to support the community in diverting hazardous waste from landfill, by offering battery recycling bins, and mobile phone recycling bins, in both library branches.

Council has now supported another hard waste service for the 2020/2021 financial year with ongoing support from its subsidiary NAWMA and its regional partner Eco Waste who receives waste on behalf of NAWMA.

Land Division Processes

As part of a continuous improvement, Council administration reviewed land division processes associated with the development of new housing estates. The Open Space Guideline and Biodiversity Management Plan have been referenced by Council administration as part of the development assessment process. This process improvement is particularly important for the management of open space areas into the future to ensure they meet Council's requirements and be financially sustainable into the future. Having this information readily accessible on Council's website has also facilitated improved communications with developers and the public.

The Open Space Guideline has also assisted with informing the forecasted open space to be vested in the Council over the next ten-year period. The forecasted open space information has assisted to improve the forecasts for open space maintenance costs in Council's Long Term Financial Plan as an additional process improvement. The maintenance forecast also assisted with informing the development of Councils draft Open Space Asset Management Plan relative to estimating future maintenance costs associated with growth.

Hindmarsh Boulevard Landscape Amenity Improvements

Servicing the local community of Evanston Gardens, an existing reserve on Hindmarsh Boulevard was approved for landscape amenity improvements as part of Annual Budget. The Town of Gawler commenced the design of the landscape improvements that sought to achieve increased biodiversity as well as overall landscape amenity outcomes at the site. Following consultation with the local community on the design, a specialist native grasses contractor was commissioned to deliver the works. Construction works commenced in May 2020 to facilitate optimal establishment conditions for the native grasses, trees and biodiversity plantings.

During construction, contamination was found. The site was temporarily cordoned off, and then remediated through capping under the guidance of Greencap. The

OUR ENVIRONMENT - Key Achievements

reserve was then seeded with the native grasses and the mounds planted by a local community group 'Friends of Musgrave Reserve' who were also successful in receiving a grant from the 'Fund My Neighbourhood' to help plant the mounds with new native species which attract native fauna. The site's native grasses and plants continue to green and establish.

Schomburgk Drive Street Tree Planting

At the completion of the new Schomburgk Drive, Council funded the installation of 260 new street trees along the road. These new street trees will provide shade and reduce urban heat island effect, improve biodiversity and improved the amenity along this key new route. Council opted for native trees Eucalytus leucoxylon megalocarpa and Angophora costata, which will be well suited to this area and create a boulevard effect once matured.

The project cost will be reimbursed through through a Separate Rate, which will be applied to future residents living in this Gawler East growth precinct only. The Springwood Estate developers have also contributed to the amenity of the roadway. Within the Springwood boundary, Springwood Development has installed new planting in the medians and verges, and will be installing the remaining street trees within the 2021-22 Financial Year.



Schomburgk Drive Street Tree Planting



The following is a reflection of the Key Achievements relating to Goal 5 - A Strong, Vibrant Community.
The more significant Key Achievements for Goal 5 are featured on the next few pages.

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

- Council and Sector participation and advocacy
- Awards and Recognition
- Project Management Framework
- Performance Excellence Program Participation
- Cultural Awareness Program
- Our People Our Safety

OBJECTIVE 5.2 Foster and encourage community teamwork

- Audit Committee
- Human Resource Management and Organisational Development - Our People
- Barossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains Regional Procurement Group
- Barossa Light and Lower Northern

Region Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

- Memorandum of Understanding with Adelaide Plains
- Gawler Youth Advisory Committee
- Gawler & Districts Youth Workers Network
- Graffiti Program
- Gawler Visitor Information Centre
- Gawler Community House
- Community Groups, Service Clubs and Sporting Clubs
- Gawler Show
- Gawler Carols/Santa's Workshop
- Governance
- SA Landscape Architecture Award – Walker Place
- Local Government Awards Excellence in Infrastructure Shortlisted Nomination – Gawler East Urbanisation Infrastructure Provision
- Gawler Heritage Collection

Management Plan 2020-2025

- Gawler Heritage Collection Deaccessioning Plan

OBJECTIVE 5.3 Continue to deliver effective services and refine management processes

- COVID-19 pandemic – Financial relief measures implemented by Council
- Local Government Reform Bill
- Implementation of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016
- Traffic and Parking
- Willaston Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Plan
- Building Inspections
- Building Fire Safety Committee
- Electronic Data Management System

Council and Sector participation and advocacy

Mayor Redman, the CEO and members of the executive management group have actively participated in sector based organisations that have provided opportunities to advocate for Gawler Council's interest and that of the community as detailed as follows:

- Mayor Redman – Local Government Association - Greater Adelaide Region of Councils (GAROC) Board Member
- CEO Henry Inat – Metro Council CEO representative on the Local Government Association (LGA) Research and Development Committee
- CEO Henry Inat – Board Member on the Local Government Professionals Group
- Manager Development, Environmental and Regulatory Services, Ryan Viney – PDI Act – Ministerial Transition Committee
- Manager Business Enterprises and Communications, David Barrett – Treasurer, Performing Arts Connections Australia
- Manager Infrastructure & Engineering Services, Sam Dilena, Board Member Gawler River Flood Management Authority

Awards and Recognition

Council has been acknowledge for its high standards and outcomes achieved during this period where it has received the following award(s) and or short listed for nomination accordingly:

Walker Place Redevelopment - The Project has now won two prestigious awards including the Excellence in Design and/or Construction of a Public Works Project – Civil under \$2 million through the South Australian branch of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia, and a Landscape Architecture Award in the Civil Landscape category by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects SA.

Gawler East Urbanisation Infrastructure Provision

- The overall outcomes achieved by the Town of Gawler

to support a sustainable future Gawler as a result of the Gawler East Residential Zones urbanisation was recognised by being shortlisted for the 2021 Local Government Professionals Awards for Excellence in Infrastructure. The nomination included the delivery of the Gawler East Link Road (now named as Schomburgk Drive and Mullamar Way), planning for various future traffic/community infrastructure upgrades identified and funding secured via a separate rate over land payable by future developers at the time they subdivide their land to assist fund these works.

Project Management Framework

The Council has implemented a Project Management Framework to guide the delivery of the vast array of operating and capital projects the Council undertakes each financial year. The framework improves the approach to manage projects and ensures consistency in how projects are planned and delivered across the organisation. Projects planning and reporting tools have been developed as well as a Project Management Governance Group established. This Group meets regularly to ensure projects and risks are being managed appropriately.

This initiative is relatively new to Local Government and the Council has shared this initiative with other Council's interested with seeing to improve their project delivery practice also.

Performance Excellence Program participation

Council completed its third year participation in the Australasian Local Government Performance Excellence Program during the reporting period. Developed by PwC, in partnership with Local Government Professionals Australia, the Australasian Local Government Performance Excellence Program was first developed in 2013 – with a number of Councils, across New Zealand and Australia, participating in the annual program. The purpose of the program is to assist Councils better



Council Members 2018 - 2022

OUR LEADERSHIP - Key Achievements

communicate, control and manage their internal business performance with their stakeholders through the use of comparative data analytics. During the program, PwC collects data from participating Councils and then transforms this data into key metrics, identifying trends and observations that focus on operational and management excellence.

Due to a marked decline in Councils' participating in the program in recent years' (as evidenced by a reduction from 151 Councils' in 2017/18 to 87 in 2019/20 – including a reduction from 23 to 10 for South Australian Councils'), in addition to the pending introduction of the State Government's new Local Government Information Framework (which is highlighted by the recent introduction of the Councils in Focus website which benchmarks each SA Council's financial performance), Council has elected to no longer participate in the Local Government Performance Excellence Program.

Cultural Awareness Program

Council's culture is the shared values and behaviours that set the standard for staff, to approach their work, their interactions and their commitment to how they work with each other and on behalf of the community. Council is committed to continuing its investment in improving the culture at the Town of Gawler over the next year to further assist in creating a constructive organisational culture that is focused on best practice business outcomes.

Our People Our Safety

Our People Our Safety Work Health and Safety (WHS), Risk Management (RM) and Injury Management (IM) will always be of high importance and therefore Council will continue to invest and implement improvements in undertaking these elements. Council as a whole is continuing to improve and enhance its Risk Management Framework. To assist in this Council has developed an inaugural three year internal audit plan. The overall construct of the internal audit plan includes up to 3 focused internal audits projects per year, including compliance, strategic and operational categories. The outcome of these audits and associated actions will be tracked and managed, with active monitoring through the Audit Committee.

Audit Committee

Council has an Audit Committee, established pursuant to Section 126 of the Local Government Act 1999, which met on seven occasions during the reporting period. The Committee is comprised of three Elected Members (including the Mayor) and three Independent Members. The Independent Members on the Committee have appropriate qualifications, knowledge, and experience in Finance, Governance, and Risk to assist the Committee in its operations, which include, but are not limited to, the following

- Reviewing the Annual Financial Statements presented

- Reviewing Council's suite of Strategic Management Plans (e.g. Community Plan, Annual Budget / Business Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan, etc.)
- Reviewing Quarterly Budget Reviews presented
- Reviewing various Financial and Risk related policies
- Reviewing the adequacy of Council's internal controls
- Liaising with Council's external Auditor

Human Resource Management and Organisational Development

Town of Gawler's future success depends upon the skills, energy and commitment of its employees. A highly productive and competent workforce will deliver services that meet their infrastructure, community and financial responsibilities. Council aims to attract, develop and retain talented individuals and provide a stimulating, supportive and safe work environment that enables them to maximise their contribution. Industrial arrangements and supporting human resources strategies, policies and tools are in place to offer a framework to improve Councils performance. It should be noted that for a period of time, Council instituted a temporary halt to non-essential recruitment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our People

Our people are the heart of our organisation.

- The average length of service for employees at the Council (workforce tenure) is 7 years
- The Town of Gawler's workforce average age is 45
- Gender Balance - Ratio of Male and Female employees (% as at 30 June 2021) Male 69, Female 71
- 140 Employee Numbers at 30 June 2021 inclusive of full time, part time, fixed term and casuals compared to 138 at 30 June 2020
- Annual employee turnover rate for 2020/2021 = 9.89% (industry standard turnover rate considered to be between 8% to 12%)

Governance

All of Council's powers come from legislation. The way in which Council makes decisions is by resolutions passed at Council meetings. To conduct its governing, regulatory and service activities effectively and efficiently, Council has in place a process of delegation. Delegation enables Council to focus on policy and strategy and enables the day to day operations of Council to be carried out by the Council administration.

Barossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains Councils Regional Procurement Group

The Barossa Regional Procurement Group formed in 2014 as an alliance between the Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Mid Murray Council, Light Regional Council and the Adelaide Plains Council. The aim of the Group is to enhance the local economy, improve internal procurement practices, create efficiencies and reduce the burden on suppliers through standardisation of

OUR LEADERSHIP - Key Achievements

procurement documentation, reduction of risk to Councils through central management of licencing and insurance requirements, and deliver potential cost and efficiency savings for all member Councils. The Barossa Regional Procurement Group achieved these aims through four contract reviews and one open tender this financial year.

Barossa Light and Lower Northern Region Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

The State Public Health Plan recognises Councils as having a role in leading and coordinating the delivery of services and initiatives in public health on behalf of the community. Section 52 of the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 requires Councils to report on Regional Public Health Plans. The Regional Public Health Plan contains a comprehensive assessment of the extent to how Council has progressed implementation of its regional public health plan. The Regional Public Health Plan is a collaboration between the Town of Gawler, Barossa, Light Regional and the Adelaide Plains Councils.

The Regional Health and Wellbeing Plan Project Working Committee comprising of Elected Members from the four partnering Councils and staff undertook a review of the Plan for the Barossa, Light and Lower Northern Region area comprising the Local Government Areas of the Town of Gawler, Barossa, Adelaide Plains and Light Regional Councils during 2020/2021. The report review identified ongoing and emerging issues across all councils relating to building supportive environments, the prevalence of preventable chronic disease risk factors including smoking, alcohol and other drugs, physical inactivity and obesity and the management of mental health and homelessness and increasing community demand for local government services. The report highlighted the ongoing collaboration of the region's Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. The partnering regional Councils also commenced planning for the review of the plan during 2021/2022.

Memorandum of Understanding with Adelaide Plains

Council continues to share casual Library staff with Adelaide Plains Council, as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) first established in 2007.

Gawler Youth Advisory Committee

The Gawler Youth Advisory Committee is a link between young people in the Gawler community and Council. The Committee has 13 youth members ranging from 12-24 years of age and two elected Council members, meeting monthly in the Council Chambers at The Civic Centre Gawler. The Committee provides an opportunity for young people to have a voice and promotes a positive image in the community. In addition, they ensure current Youth Programs and Plans remain relevant and hold Council accountable for its implementation.

Gawler & Districts Youth Workers Network

The Gawler & District Youth Workers Network has members from our local community, both Government and non-Government, that partner to promote, enhance services, and support children and young people. The Councils Youth Development Officer coordinates the Gawler & District Youth Workers Network, which meets monthly. The Network plays a vital role in the Gawler Youth Space, promoting programs, referring young people, and keeping each other up to date with community development.

Graffiti Program

Council's Volunteer Graffiti Removal Program continues to be an effective and strong program that contributes to maintaining clean spaces within the Town. The program has a dedicated graffiti removal vehicle which assists to efficiently provide ready access to the materials used by the Volunteers. Council continues to work with South Australian Police (SAPOL) and Council's Youth Development Program to educate young people regarding Graffiti and uses a range of approaches to reduce the negative impact of graffiti in public places. During the last year:

- Council recorded 351 customer requests to remove graffiti
- The Graffiti Volunteer Team (8 members) worked 618 hours removing graffiti
- Graffiti hits removed 2,879

Disruption to the program has occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the dedication of the Volunteers to the program ensures that the community benefits from their commitment in maintaining a regular three day a week roster focusing on the prompt removal of graffiti.

Gawler Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

The Gawler Visitor Information Centre has a passionate team of 28 dedicated volunteers who perform their role as ambassadors of Gawler to visitors and locals during operations at the VIC seven days a week. Five volunteer guides assist visitors to learn more about our History providing guided walking tours and private bus tours of Gawler. The VIC has attended to 9,000 visitors with 5,000 enquiries specifically relating to Gawler. COVID-19 has once again impacted visitor numbers. The Centres digital advancement through Facebook, Google My Business, Trip Advisor and Gawler Connected Community App assists with providing contemporary services to meet the needs of our visitors.

Achievements for the year include:

- Maintained Accreditation through the Australian Tourism Accreditation Program (ATAP)
- Introduction of a new guided walking tour Following in the footsteps of "The Father of Gawler" James Martins
- History Month Walking Tours
- Calendar of Events

Gawler Community House

The Gawler Community House has been operating for over 30 years providing services to support people living in Gawler and the surrounding communities. The Gawler Community House works with community members to achieve social justice, personal empowerment and social change at a neighbourhood level. Council provides support to the Gawler Community House through leasing the land and an annual financial contribution.

Community Groups, Service Clubs and Sporting Clubs

Council provides ongoing support to a range of community groups, service clubs and sporting organisations. Council continues to facilitate the Gawler and Districts Community Services Forum, a representative group of well over 50 local services providers. The Forum maintains strong partnerships, advocates for additional services and representatives provide programs and services to assist and support the Gawler community.

Council also works closely with local service clubs to share information, collaborate and partner to benefit the community. The following Service Clubs actively contribute to the Gawler community: Apex Club of Gawler, Gawler Lions Club, Rotary Club of Gawler, Rotary Club of Gawler Light and the Zonta Club of Gawler. Council provides local community groups and sporting organisations advice and guidance with funding applications and development of policies, protocols and management plans. Council also contributes significant in-kind support by way of staff involvement, use of facilities and rooms, promotion of activities and events, and community grants. Council has historically provided loan funding support to various local sporting Clubs to enhance sporting facilities for the Gawler community.



Elf at the Santa's Workshop

Gawler Show

The annual Gawler Show is a key tourist event and the largest regional show held in South Australia. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been immense for the Gawler Show Society, with the Society having to make the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Gawler Show. Council financially supports the annual delivery of the Gawler Show with preparations commencing for the 2021 show. Council has facilitated support to enable the Society to develop strategic documents to ensure the Society's ongoing financial sustainability in the short and long term.

Gawler Carols/Santa's Workshop

The Gawler Carols event is usually a highlight of the year for thousands in the community. Due to COVID-19, an alternate program was delivered in 2020 in partnership with the Apex Club of Gawler. The 4-day Santa's Workshop event in December was delivered as a COVID-Safe environment at the Gawler Civic Centre. Young and old alike were thrilled to visit and have a photo with Santa, discover Willo's Men's Shed Workshop, be entertained by Chloe Chigwidden and Alabaster Snowball, write and post a letter to Santa and check out all the amazing Christmas characters and lights throughout the Gawler Civic Centre's Institute. There was a fantastic response to this free event with 1,872 people booked, equating to 94% capacity. A Mayor's Giving Tree was also located at the Gawler Civic Centre and Aquatic Centres, providing opportunity for the community to donate gifts to those in needs during the festive season.

COVID-19 pandemic – Financial relief measures implemented by Council

In the 2020/21 financial year, Council instigated sector-leading financial relief measures for the community in response to the financial and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst a number of Councils' elected to not increase their General Rates income for 2020/21, the Town of Gawler elected to provide targeted General Rates relief to those in our community who were directly financially impacted by the pandemic. This targeted relief provided for a 25% 'one-off' General Rate reduction, provided upon application and subject to certain eligibility criteria being met.

The Council established a funding pool of \$530,000 for this initiative, equivalent to the amount of increased General Rate revenue to be received in 2020/21 (excluding 'new' General Rate revenue from development growth), such that Council budgeted for a net 0% increase in General Rate revenue from existing ratepayers for the reporting period. 88 applications for 25% General Rates financial relief were received (from 47 Commercial and 41 Residential ratepayers), which translated to initial total General Rate reductions of approximately \$80,000 being provided, which was naturally materially less than \$530,000 funding pool established for the purpose. The value of individual

reductions provided ranged from approximately \$300 (residential) to approximately \$9,500 (commercial).

In November 2020, the Council resolved to distribute the unallocated pool funding of \$450,000 across all other ratepayers, via a 'one-off' \$40 reduction for each property. This reduction meant that the average residential ratepayer incurred no increase in their net General Rates for the reporting period.

Local Government Reform Bill

The SA Parliament enacted the Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Bill 2021 on 17 June 2021. The Bill will have considerable and far-reaching broad implications for the Local Government sector. Transitional regulatory provisions are still being developed, as the new legislation is enacted. The Council will need to consider any funding and staff resource consequences of the new legislation once further clarity has been provided by the State Government in this regard.

Implementation of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016

The implementation of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 for phase 3 Councils, including the Town of Gawler, which was originally due to occur on 1 July 2020 was delayed and ultimately implemented on 19 March 2021. Notwithstanding the delay, preparations to facilitate the transition from the Development Act 1993 to the Planning, Development and Infrastructure 2016, included various submissions to the State Government, community and elected member workshops, implementation of a business readiness program, accreditation of appropriate staff, appointment of the Council Assessment Panel and analysis of development policy.

Traffic and Parking

Council's Community Safety Officers respond to parking complaints within the Gawler Township and outer suburban areas. During the previous year, staff have investigated 183 parking issues reported by residents, which shows a 47.5% increase when compared to 124 complaints in 2019/2020. Council's Community Safety team continued to conduct regular proactive patrols in congested areas such as school zones and busy shopping areas. Community Safety Officers monitor the main shopping areas daily within the Gawler business district, providing a service to contracted private car parking areas, and encouraging the turnover of parking spaces for customers supporting our local businesses.

Gawler Heritage Collection Management Plan 2020-2025

The finalised Gawler Heritage Collection Management Plan reflects the work undertaken by the Gawler Heritage Collection Committee and Cultural Heritage Centre Staff to refine and formalize the strategic priorities for the management of the Gawler Heritage Collection through to 2025.

Gawler Heritage Collection Deaccessioning Plan

Best practice heritage collection management may require the deaccessioning or removal of items to ensure that the Collection remains relevant. The Gawler Heritage Collection Policy provides clear guidelines regarding the suitability and significance of items in the Gawler Heritage Collection and the need for potential deaccession. Council Staff have been working with the Gawler Heritage Collection Committee to identify items that do not meet the requirements of the Policy and are then presented to Council for removal from the Collection. Managing the Collection to ensure that it does not contain unnecessary or irrelevant items aids us in understanding the significance and importance of the Gawler Heritage Collection.

Willaston Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Plan

In April 2021, Council adopted the Willaston Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) Plan informed by community consultation. The Willaston LATM Plan provides a strategic approach for managing current and future traffic and pedestrian movements on the local road network of the suburb of Willaston. The Plan identifies road safety issues in the local area of Willaston and prioritises proposed improvements to existing road and traffic management arrangements. The key objective of the LATM Plan is to provide a holistic approach to the overall traffic management in Willaston rather than developing solutions on a 'street by street' basis.

Building Inspections

In 2020/21 Council inspected 204 wall and roof frames, 19 footings, and 78 swimming pools, compared to 83 wall and roof frames, 17 footings and 85 swimming pools in the 2019/20 financial year.

Building Fire Safety Committee

Council's Building Fire Safety Committee held three meetings in 2020/21 (one was missed due to Covid-19), above the mandatory three meetings required in accordance with the Development Act 1993. A total of 12 Building Fire Safety compliance inspections were conducted on commercial premises within Gawler, compared to 14 the previous year.

Electronic Data Management System

Council has a legislative requirement under the State Records Act 1997 to ensure that all corporate records are appropriately managed, stored and maintained. This year, over 133,300 records have been electronically captured into Council's Electronic Document Records Management System. Last financial year, the State Records Council approved and subsequently released a new General Disposal Schedule (GDS 40). The records department has been busy implementing this into their electronic environment along with GDS 41 which is associated with the management of Burial and Cremation Records.