

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021 - 2022

[www.gawler.sa.gov.au](http://www.gawler.sa.gov.au)

Gawler



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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 tampinhi yalaka ngadlu Kaurna yartangka inparrinhi. Ngadludlu tampinhi, parnaku tuwila yartangka. Kaurna Miyurna yaitya yarta-mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku, parnaku yailtya, parnaku tapa puru purruna. Kaurna Miyurna ithu yailtya purruna, yarta kuma puru martinhi, puru warri-apinhi, puru tangka martulayinhi.

Front page photograph:  
Gawler Fringe Event

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# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Gawler Fringe

I am pleased to present our annual report for 2021-22.

Our report summarises the achievements over this time.

Some highlights include:

Boundary reform progression and support. This important work will continue over the next term of Council with important decisions needing to be made in this space.

Local Heritage holds considerable cultural and community value. Council's work in transitioning many contributory items to local heritage places should be applauded. 150 buildings and places were elevated as a result of this work. This reinforces the importance our community places on heritage value here in Gawler.

Council's continued investment in community infrastructure saw new toilet facilities opened close to both the central shopping district and our premier parks along the South Para River. The modern toilets, adjacent to Apex Park and in Martins Place, achieve a high standard of accessibility for our community. Completion

of these facilities marked the end of the Walker Place redevelopment which landed Council a 2022 International Public Works Engineers Australasian Excellence Award for Best Public Works Project of the Year under \$2 million.

In March 2022, I officially opened the refurbished Gawler Visitor Information Centre that incorporated significant disability access improvements including the installation of a lift to activate the upper level of the Centre. The refurbishment was fully funded by the Australian Government. The improved community facility provides the Gawler Community Gallery with a new home and increases opportunities for local artists to showcase their works.

In June 2022, we welcomed the return of train services to Gawler. Having been without a direct train service to Adelaide since December 2020, the resumption of services was an extremely welcome one for all commuters. Gawler remains a central hub for residents in the wider district, so having a modern, functioning train service is vital for our region, particularly as our population continues to grow.

I commend this Annual Report to you as evidence of Council's commitment to fulfilling the community's vision for our town as we strive to be a liveable, cohesive, active, innovative, and sustainable community.

I thank all Council Members, Council Staff, and our dedicated volunteers for their ongoing contributions to this vision.

Mayor Karen Redman

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Book V Movie Event

For the 2021/22 financial year, Council adopted a modest 2.5% increase in General Rates from existing ratepayers to extensively fund its \$15.8 million Capital Works and \$33.4 million Operations budgets. The Capital Works program kick-started several key initiatives that will be implemented over the coming years. Council's Administration secured external grant funding of \$3.6 million towards delivery of these Capital Works thereby ensuring that loan borrowings to fund such works are kept to a minimum.

Council experienced extreme cost and program escalation pressures, and failed tenders in the market, over the financial year which significantly impacted on its ability to deliver the budgeted Capital Works program. The Coronavirus pandemic has had a protracted impact on the market, driven primarily from supply chain issues, increased logistic costs, Federal and State Government "road-to-recovery" infrastructure spending, and a disrupted workforce due to isolation requirements and illness.

Labour shortages across the State, the war in Ukraine, and rapid rises in inflation have further compounded market pressures.

Council managed to deliver \$8.4 million of its planned \$15.8 million in capital works during 2021/22. \$3.8 million of this relates to completed asset replacement and renewal projects with Council recording an Asset Sustainability Ratio of 114% for the year. Whilst this is above Council's policy target of 90-100%, it demonstrates that Council is committed to renewal/ replacement of its stock of fixed assets. Gawler remains one of the fastest growth areas in the State and Council continues to deliver exceptional services and support to the Gawler community.

With increased support from both the State and Federal Governments even more can be achieved in delivering on Council's vision and priorities for its community.

As the State and Federal Government elections approached in early 2022, Council sought increased support to deliver a range of outcomes for the local community in the areas of sport and recreation, health, growth management, housing affordability and local economic development. After the March 2022 State Government Election, Council was advised that it would be receiving \$7.85 million in funding towards future project delivery.

The State Government funding is a welcome contribution to future community infrastructure (\$2.05m) and sport and recreation projects (\$5.8m) in Gawler.

Council achieved a financial year operating surplus of \$1.648m (underlying surplus of \$1.049m once the distortion caused by the Federal Government Financial Assistance Grant advance payment is removed). This result sees Council's Operating Ratio improve from 0.72% (2020/21) to 4.7% (2021/22) and be within Council's policy target.

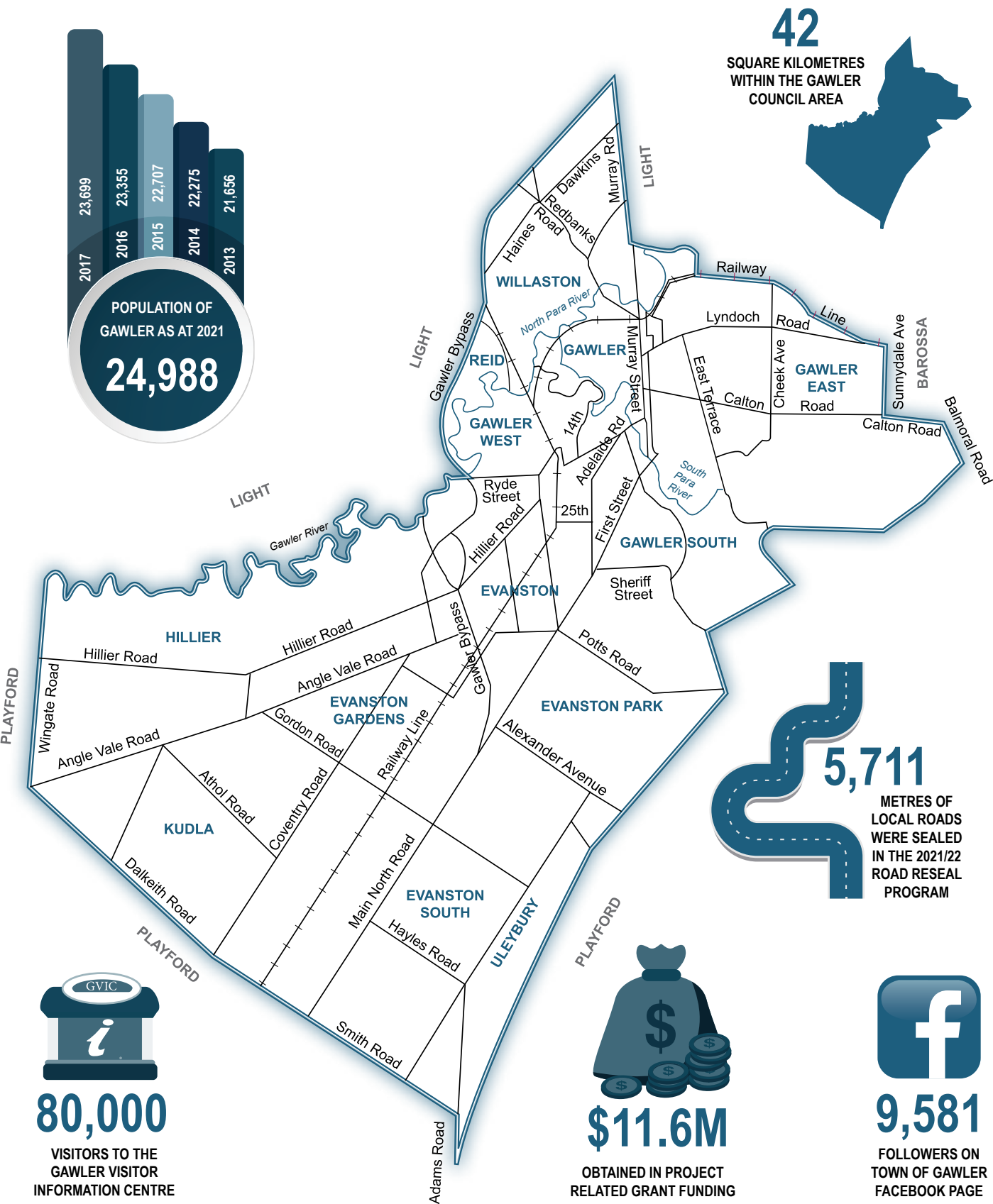
I would like to thank all Council Staff and Council Members for their continued dedication, hard work and commitment to delivering positive outcomes for the local community. I confer this Annual Report as a true and accurate record of Council's achievements and financial management position for the 2021/22 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 (resigned)



Cr Jim Vallelonga

COUNCIL MEMBER ALLOWANCES July 2021 - June 2022

Mayor.....	\$73,608
Deputy Mayor .....	\$20,289
Councillors.....	\$18,402

Audit Committee Independent Member Allowances

Chair (Independent Member) \$1451 per quarter. Independent Member \$1,055 per quarter  
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 2021/22, including the following

- Council Member Cultural Learning; and
- Gawler Connected Community App review

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 1:1,764 (19,414 electors)  
A comparative table below compares local and similar sized councils to Gawler, as at 30 June 2022.

	Town of Gawler	The Barossa Council	Light Regional Council	City of Murray Bridge	City of Whyalla	City of Alexandrina
Electors	19414	18866	11165	15548	15680	22417
Councillors	11	12	11	10	10	12
Ratio	1764	1572	1015	1554	1568	1868

(Information  
supplied by  
Local  
Government  
Association)

COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

	Council Meeting Attendance	Special Meeting Attendance	Apology	Leave of absence	Non-attendance
Maximum possible attendance	12	7			
Mayor Redman	12	6	1		
Cr Davies	12	7			
Cr Fraser	11	7		1	
Cr Goldstone	11	6	2		
Cr Hughes	12	7			
Cr Koch	12	7			
Cr Little	8	7	1	2	1
Cr Sambell	12	7			
Cr Shanks	10	3	5		1
Cr Vallelonga	11	5	1		2
Cr Tooley*				3	

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](http://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** – 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 Committee, 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 Risk 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



# 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 - Deputy Mayor Cr David Hughes (from December 2021), Chairperson - Cr Nathan Shank (to November 2021), Deputy Chairperson - Cr Paul Koch  
Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Cody Davies, Cr Diane Fraser, Cr Kelvin Goldstone (to November 2021), Cr Paul Little (to November 2021), Cr Ian Tooley (to 27 July 2021), 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 Paul Koch (to November 2021), Deputy Chairperson - Cr Nathan Shanks (from December 2021), Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Diane Fraser, Cr Kelvin Goldstone, Deputy Mayor Cr David Hughes, Cr Paul

Little, Cr Brian Sambell (from December 2021), Cr Ian Tooley (to 27 July 2022),

## 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 (to November 2021), Chairperson - Cr Paul Koch (from December 2021), Deputy Chairperson - Cr David Hughes, Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Cody Davies, Cr Diane Fraser, Cr Kelvin Goldstone, Cr Brian Sambell, Cr Nathan Shanks, Cr Ian Tooley (to 27 July 2021), 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

# OTHER COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Chairperson - Ms Helen Hennessy, Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Mr Adrian Brown, Cr Diane Fraser, Ms Debra Good, Cr Paul Koch.

## 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 2021- 30 March 2022

Chairperson: Renee Chamberlain, Deputy Chairperson: Jack Gill

Members: Alexander Prior, Abbey Dale, Angus Milikan, Brenna Carmichael, Darcie Hancock, Emilia Muriti, Grace Gallagher, Isaac Solomon, Jade Hancock, Tayln Treloar, Cr Cody Davies, Cr Nathan Shanks

1 April 2022 – 30 June 2022

Chairperson: Jade Hancock, Deputy Chairperson: Emilia Muriti

Members: Brenna Carmichael, Darcie Hancock, Emerson Speed, Grace Gallagher, Isaac Solomon, Jack Gill, Renee Chamberlain, Abbey Dale, Xanthe Kennedy, Cr Cody Davies, Cr Nathan Shanks

## Audit & Risk Committee

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

The functions of the Audit Committee as outlined in the committee terms of reference includes:

- 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. Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Cody Davies (from December 2021), Cr D Hughes (to November 2021), Cr Paul Koch.

## 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 (to 31 March 2022), Presiding Member - Dr Iris Iwanicki (from April 2022). Members - Ms Fleur Bowden, Mr Jake McVicar, Mr Grant Hewitt, Cr Kelvin Goldstone, Deputy Independent Members - Ms Stephanie Johnston (from April 2022), Mr Michael Wohlstadt (from April 2022), Mr Sandy Wilkinson (from April 2022). 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 considered between 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022	Numbers of Orders
Total number of orders made under section 90(2) of the Act in the financial year	42
Total number or orders made under subsection 91(7) in the financial year	40
Number of orders made in the financial year that expired, ceased to apply or were revoked during the financial year	14

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	9
90(3) (c)	would reveal a trade secret	
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	4
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	0
90(3)(f)	prejudice the maintenance of the law prevention, detection or investigation of criminal offence, or right to a fair trial	0
90(3)(g)	not breach any law	1
90(3)(h)	legal advice	8
90(3)(i)	information relating to actual litigation, or litigation that the Council or Council committee believe on reasonable grounds will take place	2
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	2
90(3)(k)	tenders for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the carrying out of works	8
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	0
90(3)(n)	information relevant to the review of a determination of Council under the Freedom of Information Act 1991	0
90(3)(o)	information relating to a proposed award recipient before the presentation of the award	0

## Items retained under Confidential Orders 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Meeting Date	Last Review Date	Item Title	Nature of Confidentiality Section 90(3)	Information Retained
25/10/2016	28/06/2022	Gawler East Link Road Update	(a), (h)	Attachment
28/02/2017	28/06/2022	Local Government Association of SA Business Case for a Public Lighting Service	(c)	Report and attachments
07/08/2018	28/06/2022	Woodvale Land Division 490/D023/16 (Variation to Stage 5) and Life Style Developments Land Division 490/D032/15	(b)	Attachments
26/02/2019	28/06/2022	Barossa Regional Procurement Group - Tender - Provision of New Surfacing Works and Resurfacing of Sealed Roads - BRPG 006-2018	(k)	Retained in full

Meeting Date	Last Review Date	Item Title	Nature of Confidentiality Section 90(3)	Information Retained
26/02/2019	28/06/2022	Electricity Procurement through Local Government Association's Process	(k)	Retained in full
26/03/2019	28/06/2022	Springwood Traffic Interventions and Community Infrastructure Deed Update	(b), (d), (h)	Retained in full
26/11/2019	28/06/2022	Concordia Precinct Authority - Business Case lodged with Minister	(j)	Retained in full
17/12/2019	28/06/2022	Concordia Precinct Authority - Business Case - Council Response	(j)	Retained in full
07/04/2020	28/06/2022	Stimulus Funding - Karbeethan Reserve Masterplan	(b)	Retained in full
07/04/2020	28/06/2022	Chief Executive Officer Performance Management Review Update	(a)	Retained in full
14/04/2020	28/06/2022	Springwood State Commission Assessment Panel Decision Legal Options	(b)(i), (h)	Retained in full
14/04/2020	28/06/2022	Springwood Traffic Interventions and Community Infrastructure Deed	(b), (d)	Retained in full
14/04/2020	28/06/2022	Lifestyle Development Pty Ltd Gawler East Infrastructure Deed Update report	(b), (d)	Retained in full
14/04/2020	28/06/2022	Commissioner of Highways Traffic Interventions and Community Infrastructure Deed Update	(b), (d)	Retained in full
26/05/2020	28/06/2022	Recommendations from CEO Performance Management Panel Meeting held on 7 April 2020	(a)	Retained in full
16/06/2020	28/06/2022	Council Response to Resolution to Item 11.8 at the 28 April 2020 (2020:04:COU131)	(a), (h)	Retained in full
07/07/2020	28/06/2022	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	28/06/2022	Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan Implementation	(b)	Retained in full
17/08/2020	28/06/2022	Allegations Arising from Enterprise Bargaining Negotiations - Investigation Update	(a)	Retained in full
31/08/2020	28/06/2022	Recommendations from Corporate & Community Services Committee meeting held on 14 June 2020	(b)	Retained in full
29/09/2020	28/06/2022	Allegations Arising from Enterprise Bargaining Negotiations - Investigation Update	(a)	Report and attachments
03/11/2020	28/06/2022	Allegations Arising From Enterprise Bargaining Negotiations - Final Report	(a)	Report and attachments
23/02/2021	28/06/2022	Public Lighting Update	(j)(i)	Report and attachments
30/03/2021	28/06/2022	CEO Performance Update	(a)	Retained in full
13/04/2021	28/06/2022	Procurement Matter	(j)(i)	Retained in full
27/04/2021	28/06/2022	Legal Advice Sought by Mayor	(h)	Retained in full
27/04/2021	28/06/2022	Question Without Notice - Leave of Absence	(a)	Retained in full
25/05/2021	28/06/2022	Gawler Caravan Park Lease and Capital Works Project Update	(b)(i), (d)(i)	Retained in full
19/08/2021	28/06/2022	Mayor Redman - Gender Equality	(a)	Minutes
19/08/2021	28/06/2022	CEO KPI Workshop Outcomes	(a)	Retained in full
19/08/2021	28/06/2022	CEO Performance Update - June 2021	(a)	Report and attachments
24/08/2021	28/06/2022	Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan Further Implementation	(b)(i)	Retained in full



# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Meeting Date	Last Review Date	Item Title	Nature of Confidentiality Section 90(3)	Information Retained
24/08/2021	28/06/2022	Confidential Procurement Matter	(i)	Retained in full
28/09/2021	28/06/2022	Barossa Regional Procurement Group Tender - Provision of Street Sweeping Services	(k)	Retained in full
28/09/2021	28/06/2022	Procurement Matter Update	(i)	Retained in full
28/09/2021	28/06/2022	9 Jane Street, Willaston - Tree Matter	(h), (j)	Retained in full
28/09/2021	28/06/2022	Recommendation from CEO Performance Management Panel meeting held on 19 August 2021	(a)	Retained in full
12/10/2021	28/06/2022	Confidential update from CEO	(a)	Retained in full
21/10/2021	28/06/2022	CEO Performance review	(a)	Retained in full
21/10/2021	28/06/2022	Consultancy Engagement - Independent CEO Performance Review 21/22 (or until June 2024)	(a)	Retained in full
26/10/2021	28/06/2022	Cleaning Contract Procurement Update	(b)(i), (k)	Retained in full
26/10/2021	28/06/2022	Tree Compliance Matter - 9 Jane Street, Willaston	(h), (i)	Retained in full
26/10/2021	28/06/2022	Recommendations from CEO Performance Management Panel Meeting held on 21 October 2021	(a)	Retained in full
23/11/2021	28/06/2022	Council Member Behaviour	(a), (h)	Retained in full
23/11/2021	28/06/2022	Renewal SA - Land Sequencing	(j)(i)	Retained in full
23/11/2021	28/06/2022	Notice of Motion Deputy Mayor Brian Sambell - Open Space	(b)(i)	Retained in full
21/12/2021	28/06/2022	Gawler Connected Community App	(b)(i), (d)(i)	Retained in full
21/12/2021	28/06/2022	Tree Compliance Matter	(h)(i)	Retained in full
25/01/2022	28/06/2022	Confidential Update from CEO	(a)	Minutes
25/01/2022	28/06/2022	Procurement of Electricity 2023	(d)(i), (k)	Retained in full
25/01/2022	28/06/2022	Public Lighting Upgrade Update	(d)(i)	Retained in full
22/02/2022	28/06/2022	Cowan Street - Church Hill - Supreme Court Proceedings	(h)	Part 2 and 3 of minutes, report and attachments
22/02/2022	28/06/2022	Gawler Cycleway Update	(b), (h), (k)	Retained in full
23/02/2022	28/06/2022	Consultancy Engagement – Independent CEO Performance Review	(a)	Report and attachments
23/02/2022	28/06/2022	CEO Performance Review - KPI Update and Road Map	(a)	Report and attachments
22/03/2022	28/06/2022	Karbeethan Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1	(b)(i), (k)	Retained in full
05/04/2022	28/06/2022	Karbeethan Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1	(b)(i), (k)	Retained in full
10/05/2022	28/06/2022	Gawler Show Sponsorship Agreement Update	(g)	Report and attachments
23/05/2022	28/06/2022	CEO Performance Review	(a)	Retained in full
24/05/2022		Land Division Status of Aspire Estate, Evanston South	(b)(i), (h)	Retained in full
24/05/2022		Proposal to Purchase Land - Cowan Street, Gawler	(d)(ii)	Report and attachments
28/06/2022		Karbeethan Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1A - Procurement	b(i), (k)	Retained in full
28/06/2022		Gawler App Negotiations Update	(h)	Retained in full
28/06/2022		Confidential Recommendations from CEO Performance Management Panel Meeting held on 23 May 2022	(a)	Retained in full

## Role of the Chief Executive Officer

### Role of Council

The role of Council as set out in the *Local Government Act 1999* 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.



*Hemafood Reserve Community Engagement*



# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

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:

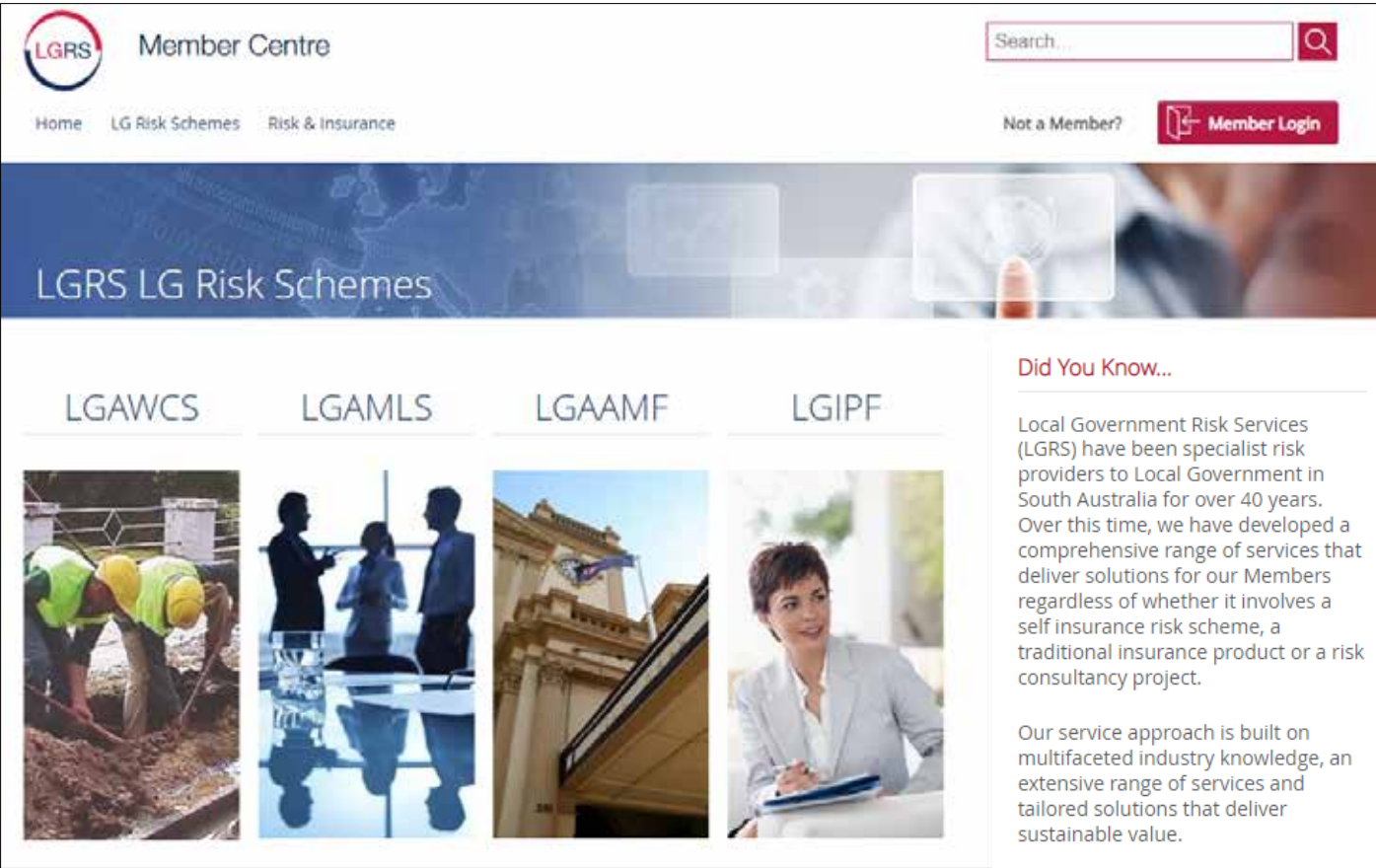
- Your Voice Gawler, Council's online engagement platform
- Fortnightly Bunyip newspaper advertisements
- Letters
- Surveys
- Public forums
- Community meetings or workshops
- Focus groups
- Distribution of various pamphlets or publications via rates notice inserts and other means
- Displays at Council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

For a complete list of projects that we have undertaken community engagement on visit page 28.

## 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 ensure compliance with the SA Local Government Association's '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 and Safety Committee and through the Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme.



### Local Government Risk Services

## Auditor Remuneration

Remuneration paid to Council's external auditors (Galpins) for work performed in the 2021/22 financial year was \$20,350.

## Legal Costs 2021/22

The Town of Gawler has incurred a total of \$227,000 in legal costs for the 2021/22 period. These expenses were spread across a number of matters, including but not limited to matters related to:

- Planning and building disputes;
- Planning appeals;
- Elected Member behavioural issues;
- Review of leases and other legal agreements;
- Industrial Relations advice;
- Representation Review; and
- Enforcement issues

## Senior Executive Officers Annual Remuneration

The Council's Executive Group consisted of the Chief Executive Officer and five Managers each receiving a package of base salary in the range of \$166,345 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)

The Town of Gawler 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*.

**Complaint under Clause 7 Statement on the Application of Competition Principles to Local Government under the Competition Principle Agreement. Part 4 of the *Government Business Enterprises (Competition) Act 1996*.**

On 28 January 2022 Council received a complaint relating to whether the operation of the Business Innovation Hub run by Council constituted a significant business activity within the meaning of the Clause 7 Statement and relevance and application of the competitive neutrality principles in delivering services, including the application of cost reflective pricing in setting commercial rent fees.

Town of Gawler engaged a qualified, independent person to investigate the complaint and the final report was presented to the Council meeting held on 26 April 2022.

The assessment found that whilst cost reflective pricing has been a consideration in the setting of the membership fees, further competitive neutrality measures were not required to be implemented.

Extract from the Findings in the report.

7.1. In light of the above and given the nature of the Services, we are of the view that the definition of a significant



- business activity under NCP is satisfied in relation to the operation of the Unit by the Council.
- 7.2. Accordingly, we find that the Services do amount to a significant business activity.
- 7.3. However, we also find that the Council has a justifiable exemption from the application of cost-reflective pricing. The introduction of such a competitive neutrality principle would have the inevitable effect of increasing of Services fees at the BI Hub in a way which would result in an outcome that outweighs the benefits currently being appreciated by the community and its members. Therefore, we find that the Council is not required to apply any principles of competitive neutrality.

### Freedom of Information

Fifteen (15) Freedom of Information applications were received and determined by Council under the South Australia *Freedom of Information Act 1991* in the twelve months to 30 June 2022.

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 the Town of Gawler 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](http://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.

### Local Developer Forum

The Town of Gawler hosted a Local Developer Forum on Tuesday 14 June 2022. This is a continuing initiative, first established in the 2020-21 financial year and has proven to be of benefit to our local developers and the administration. It enables information sharing about key initiatives and helps developers understand experiences and expectations in dealing with Council.

### 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.

# Town of Gawler Leased Premises

- Cunningham & Harvey Accountants 12 Reid St, Gawler
- Evanston Gardens Progress Association 65 Angle Vale Road, Evanston Gardens
- Fasta Pasta Lyndoch Road, Gawler East
- Gawler Amatuer Swimming Club Gawler Aquatic Centre
- Gawler BMX Club Elliott Goodger Reserve, Willaston
- Gawler & District Tennis Association Victoria Terrace, Gawler
- Gawler & District Netball Association Hallam Drive, Gawler
- Gawler Bowling Club Hallam Drive, Gawler
- Gawler Caravan Park Main North Road, Gawler
- Gawler Central Sporting Club (Football) Nixon Terrace, Gawler
- Gawler Central Sporting Club (Netball) Nixon Terrace, Gawler
- Gawler Central Sporting Club (Cricket) Nixon Terrace, Gawler
- Gawler Club Incorporated Elderly Centre (Town Hall Basement)
- Gawler Petanque Club Hallam Drive, Gawler
- Gawler Greyhound Racing Nixon Terrace, Gawler
- Gawler Community House Schnieber Terrace Gawler
- Gawler Dog Training Club Elliott Goodger Reserve, Willaston
- Gawler River Pony Club Incorporated Clifford Road, Evanston Gardens
- Gawler Rotary Club Incorporated Elliott Goodger Reserve, Willaston
- Gawler Light Rotary Club Incorporated Elliott Goodger Reserve, Willaston
- Gawler Scouts Group Elliott Goodger Reserve, Willaston
- Gawler Show Society Nixon Terrace, Gawler
- Karbeethan Sporting Association Angle Vale Road, Evanston Gardens
- Meals on Wheels Flinders St, Gawler
- Para Homing Pigeon Club Nixon Terrace, Gawler
- South Australian Fire Brigade Board Murray St, Gawler
- South Gawler Football Club Eldred Riggs Reserve, Gawler South
- South Gawler Cricket Club Eldred Riggs Reserve, Gawler South
- South Gawler Association Eldred Riggs Reserve, Gawler South
- St John Council for SA Incorporated Murray St, Gawler
- Telstra Corporation Eldred Riggs Reserve, Gawler South
- Telstra Corporation Kudla Smith Road, Kudla
- Willaston Football Club (Shared Facilities) Elliott Goodger Reserve, Willaston
- Willo Men's Shed Little Paxton St, Willaston
- WorkSkil Australia Gawler Administration Centre



Willaston Football Club (shared facilities) Elliot Goodger Reserve, Willaston - one of Town of Gawler's leased premises



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



Community Plan 2030+



Participatory Budgeting Community Engagement Session

**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 the Town of Gawler 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 and 2021/22 reporting period realised a surplus of \$1,648,000.

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. There have been major increases in Council's depreciation expense in recent years, to the extent that the amount of depreciation

incurred has doubled within the space of just seven years (from \$3.3m in 2014/15 to \$6.7m in 2021/22). This increase has been informed by changes in Australian Accounting Standards interpretation, the current inflation in costs and the value of property and infrastructure assets received from developers as part of new residential land developments.

**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 to 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 93% in the 2022/23 financial year, following which it is forecasted to incrementally decrease to 48% 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 \$50m (net \$25m 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 79% in 2028/29 (which would still be within Council's current policy threshold position of 100%). However, at the 22 February 2022 meeting, Council also determined aspirational targets for its Net Financial Liabilities Ratio of <75% within 3 years (2025) and <50% within 5 years (2027), consistent with Council's desire to reduce debt and incrementally build important future borrowing capacity for the future major upgrade of the Gawler Aquatic Centre. 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 community consultation on the Asset Management Plans for Transport, Stormwater, and Open Space Assets have been undertaken during 2021/22. These plans have now been adopted by the Council and will inform the next annual update of the Long Term Financial Plan. The update of the Buildings Asset Management Plan is underway as an updated Building Condition Audit has been completed and will be used to complete the Building Asset Management Plan to be tabled to Council for adoption in a future meeting.

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 18 tenders through the SA Tenders

and Contracts website. The Town of Gawler, as part of the Barossa Regional Procurement Group, also tendered for the provision of 2 on a regional basis.

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.



Dr Chris Brown visit while filming in Gawler

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

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.



**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:

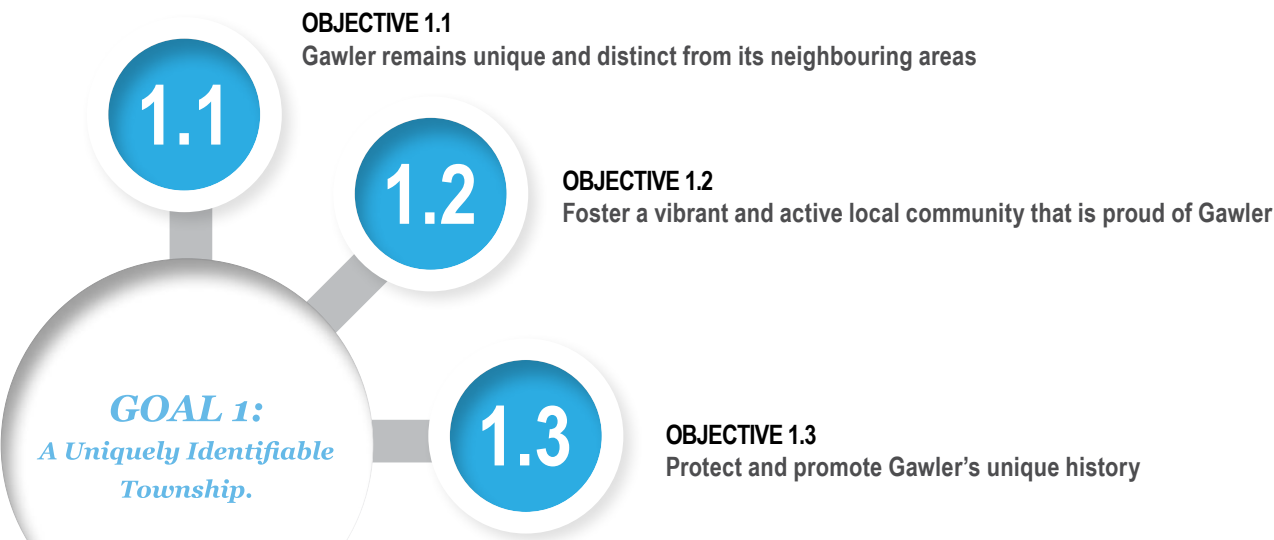
A Strong, Vibrant Community





Hemaford Reserve Playground Opening





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
- Community Grants
  - External Grants Program
  - Unsightly Premises
  - Gawler Civic Centre
    - 1. Cultural Heritage Centre
    - 2. Café – Metro Cafe
    - 3. Youth Space
    - 4. Gawler Club Inc.
  - Community Engagement
  - ANZAC Day
  - Gawler Fringe

- OBJECTIVE 1.3** Protect and promote Gawler's unique history
- Marketing and Communications
  - Arts and Culture Strategy
  - Gawler Civic Centre Institute event spaces and Town Hall meeting rooms
  - Kaurua Cultural Mapping Project
  - Visitor Information Centre and Community Gallery opening
  - Communication Boards

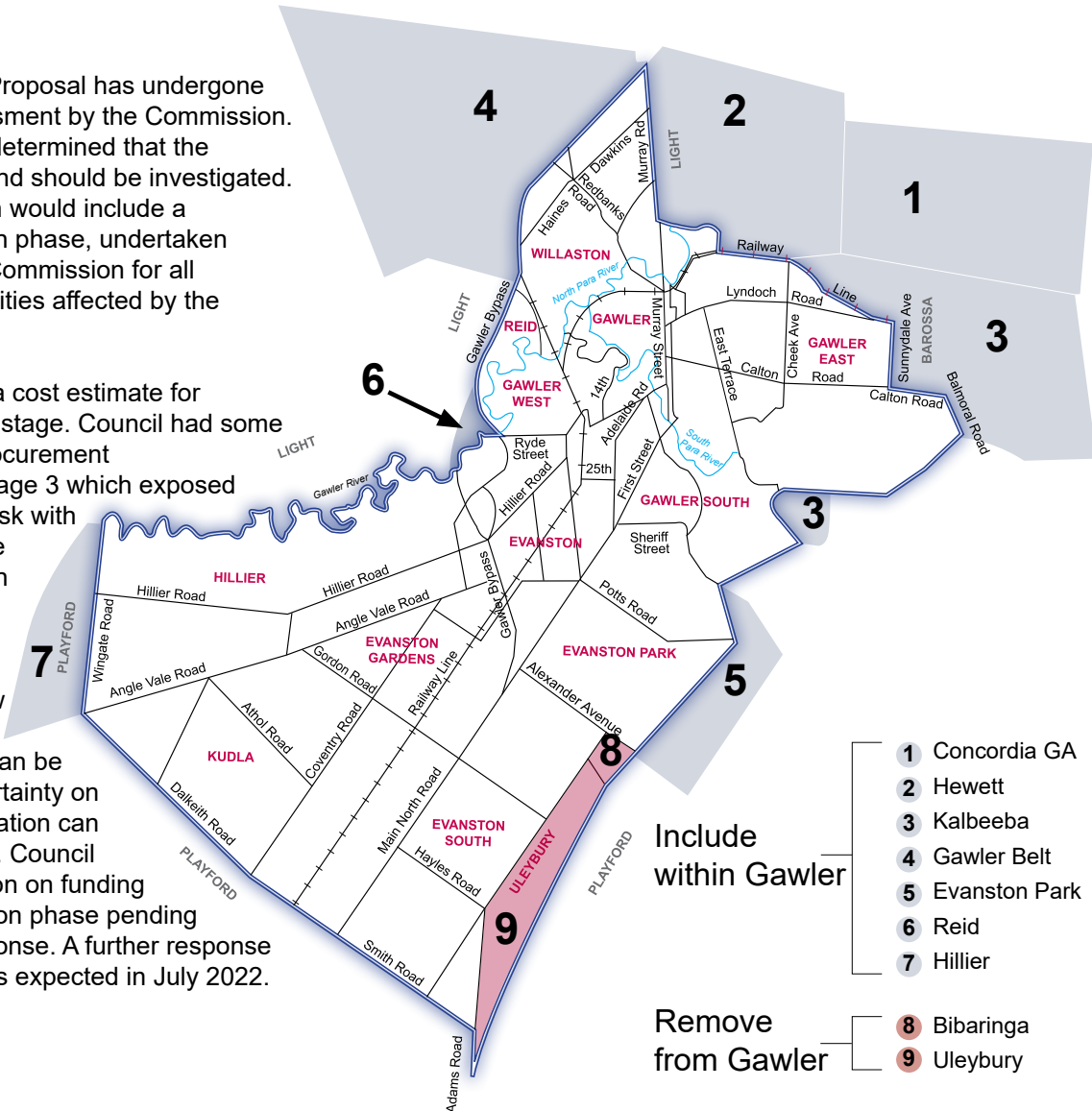
**Boundary Reform**  
Gawler's identity is very much based on its communities of interest. Important areas of our community sit within adjoining Council areas. Both these and new communities as they are created, and function as part of the Gawler community, should be both formally part of the great Gawler community. 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 proposal 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, in December 2020 to the South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission (the Commission) 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 has undergone an independent assessment by the Commission. The Commission has determined that the Proposal holds merit and should be investigated. A Stage 3 Investigation would include a community consultation phase, undertaken independently by the Commission for all Councils and Communities affected by the Proposal.

Council was provided a cost estimate for proceeding to the next stage. Council had some concerns about the procurement process outlined for Stage 3 which exposed Council to a financial risk with no ceiling or cap on the cost of the investigation provided as part of the process. Therefore Council has requested the Commission review the process to identify how the financial risk can be mitigated and more certainty on the cost of the investigation can be provided to Council. Council has deferred its decision on funding the Stage 3 Investigation phase pending the Commissions response. A further response from the Commission is expected in July 2022.





# OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

## Community Grants

Council's Community Grants Program aims to encourage community development by supporting a range of cultural and community projects, events and activities occurring within the Town of Gawler. Eligible groups, organisations and individuals are invited to apply for up to \$1,000 to assist with community focused projects and activities in the areas of, but not limited to, health, recreation and sport, community development, arts and culture, and environment.

The 2021/22 Community Grants saw two rounds occur in October/November 2021 and in March/April 2022. This was due to a larger pool of funds of \$37,859 that incorporated the 2021/22 Community Grants funds, unallocated funds from the 2020/21 Community Grants, unallocated funds from the Stimulus Program, and the Stimulus Program Hardship Fund.

In Round One of the 2021/22 community grants applicants could apply for up to \$2,000. A total of 25 applications were received and 18 grants were allocated totalling \$26,518. Funds were provided for the following initiatives:

Organisation	Project	Amount
Gawler National Trust Museum	Heritage Tour of Gawler	\$622
Gawler BMX Club	First Aid Shelter	\$2,000
Martin Johnson	Gawler's MAP (Music, Art, Poetry) Event	\$2,000
Gawler Community Gallery	Creating & Printing new logo for Community Gallery	\$900
Apex Club of Gawler	Purchase of Defibrillator	\$2,000
Gawler Girl Guides	Gawler Girl Guides Mindfulness Program	\$1,650
Gawler Hockey Club	Junior Coaches Training & Development	\$1,200
Gawler Bowling Club	Gawler Bowling Club Membership Promotion	\$2,000
Gawler Environment Centre	Table Setting for Community Centre	\$1,000
Gawler Petanque Club	Club Room Renovation	\$2,000
Gawler Community House	Upgrade of GCH Computers	\$1,444
Zonta Club of Gawler	Remembering Courageous Women	\$2,000
Gawler Community Childcare Centre	Outdoor Climbing Equipment	\$660
Central Districts Basketball Club	Junior Team Manager Bags	\$2,000
South Gawler Netball Club	Training & Development Equipment	\$1,200
Gawler Lutheran Church	Centenary Celebration of Zion Lutheran Worship Centre	\$2,000
CHUGs Community Ukulele Group	CHUGs Ukulele Community Performers	\$834
Elsie Ey Toy Library Toy Library	COVID-19 Recovery Project	\$1,008

In Round Two of the 2021/22 community grants, a total of 18 applications were received and 12 grants were allocated totalling \$10,894. Funds were provided for the following initiatives:

Organisation	Project	Amount
Fred's Van	Fred's Van Winter Warmers	\$1,000
Josh Sanders	Community Gym Riverside Gawler Salvation Army	\$1,000
Lions Club of Gawler	Gawler Hospital Equipment	\$1,000
Gawler Music Studio	Gawler Music Club Open Stage	\$200
Gawler & District Table Tennis Association	First Aid Kit	\$1,000
Barossa, Light & Gawler Umpires Association	New Umpire Uniforms	\$1,000
Wheels in Motion Gawler	Camera Installation	\$1,000
Sing Australia Gawler	Purchase of Coloured Printer	\$694
Gawler Veteran, Vintage & Classic Vehicles Club	Purchase of Defibrillator	\$1,000
Gawler Central Netball Club	Purchase of Marquee Shelters	\$1,000
Gawler Rangers Baseball Club	Training Protection Screens	\$1,000
Gawler & District Netball Association	Gawler Representative Netball	\$1,000

# OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

## Heritage Advocacy - Church Hill

The implementation of the Planning and Design Code (Code) resulted in standardised policy. As a result, the State Government has committed to prepare revised Heritage Standards in accordance with the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 and the Code. These standards are a supplementary tool of the Code and are referenced in the State Heritage Area Overlay. Council has advocated for the development of Heritage Standards for Church Hill to be treated as a priority and has written to the Minister seeking prioritisation of this work.

## Rural Land Use and Infrastructure Investigation and the Rural Areas Development Plan Amendment

The separation of Gawler from northern metropolitan Adelaide is seen as a critical factor to the spatial position of Gawler and its identity. The southern green buffer contributes to Gawler's identity contributing to its distinct character as a district centre in its own right and just a part of the continuing northern metropolitan urban landscape. Initial investigations associated commenced in the latter half of 2021 with a report titled Land Capability Assessment – Gawler Rural Zone prepared for public consultation.

## Local Heritage Transition Development Plan Amendment

In light of the planning reforms agenda and uncertainty relative to heritage protection, Council commenced the Local Heritage Transition Development Plan Amendment in August 2019. Council formally lodged the final Local Heritage Transition Development Plan Amendment with the Minister for consideration and approval in May 2021. This Development Plan Amendment was ultimately approved and successfully elevated 150 places to Local Heritage status.



Local Heritage Transition Development Plan Amendment promotion



External Grants Program

Building community needs funding and works to seek external funding where it can. 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 \$11,588,709 in project related grant funding as outlined in the table below:

Project	Grant Program	Grant Value
Karbeethan Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1	SA Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program	\$900,000
Princes Park Community Recreation Hub Stage 1	Open Space & Places for People	\$356,500
Gawler Cultural Heritage Surveys	Building Better Regions Fund - Round 5 - Community Investments	\$20,000
Gawler Ageing Well Strategy	Age Friendly SA 2020-21	\$35,000
Access Improvements to Public Transport - Tambelin	Community Infrastructure Grant	\$150,000
Stimulus Funding - LRCIP Program Extension	Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3	\$811,124
Hillier Channel Rehabilitation - Hillier Fire Affected Ground	Flood Mitigation – Stormwater Management Authority	\$440,000
Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan Continued Delivery	Open Space Grant	\$800,000
Getting Gawler Greener	Greener Neighbourhoods 2021/2022	\$150,000
Australia Day Event	Australia Day 2022 Community Grants	\$20,000
Promoting Covid-19 Vaccine Uptake in Gawler and Surrounds	Covid-19 Vaccine Uptake Grant	\$35,040
Gawler Youth Week 2022 - Why Gawler?	SA Youth Week	\$1,500
Activity Garden	Local Government Early Childhood Learning Community Innovation Grant	\$15,000
Karbeethan Reserve Synthetic Soccer Pitch	Sports Infrastructure Grant	\$1,000,000
Gawler And Districts Netball Courts Redevelopment	Sports Infrastructure Grant	\$4,800,000
Apex Park Inclusive and Accessible Infrastructure	Community Infrastructure Grant	\$60,000
Bacton Street and Gawler West Playground Safety Improvements	Community Infrastructure Grant	\$100,000
Reid Reserve Playground Development	Community Infrastructure Grant	\$600,000
Tambelin Station Carpark Upgrade	Community Infrastructure Grant	\$530,000
Redbanks Road Roundabout Upgrade	Community Infrastructure Grant	\$760,000
De-sexing Subsidy Program	Council NDN Cooperative De-sexing Program	\$4,545
Total Grant Value FY2021/2022		\$11,588,709.00

Unightly Premises

Not all properties contribute in a positive way to the fabric and pride of the area. Council's Environment and Regulatory Services Team are responsible for managing complaints relating to unsightly conditions on premises. An assessment of the property is undertaken by staff, and a subjective assessment made as to the impact of the property on the local amenity of the 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, a 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 under the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016 and South Australian Public Health Act 2011, pursue enforcement action as a last resort, when property owners fail to take reasonable steps to comply with the Act.

During the 21/22 financial year, Council received 60 unsightly property complaints, showing a decrease from the 20/21 year when 81 reports were lodged with Council. 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.

ANZAC Day

There is no more significant community event that acknowledges the sacrifices of those that have fallen than ANZAC Day. With the easing of COIVD 19 restriction by SA Health and the State Government, Gawler RSL were able to hold the ANZAC Dawn Service in Pioneer Park. Thousands attended to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australia's veterans. This year also marked the 107th anniversary of Australian and New Zealand soldiers landing on the shores of Anzac Cove as part of the Gallipoli campaign. Many officials, including Mayor Redman laid wreaths during the Service.

Gawler Civic Centre

The Gawler Civic Centre is an iconic building that brings community together and has over recent years become a centre for community vibrancy and local pride demonstrating that history can contribute in today's modern world. Throughout the financial year, over 85,000 people came through the main entrances to visit the various areas within the Gawler Civic Centre, an increase of 11,000 over the previous year. The Centre hosted many exciting shows and events throughout the year including the Gawler Fringe and History Festival. Sold out performances were achieved at Daniel Koek's West End Sessions with Amelia Ryan and Michael Griffiths, A Night of Big Laughs featuring Georgie Carroll, and Santa's Workshop 2021. Various community art and touring exhibitions were displayed in the Institute Hall, James Martin Room and Metro Café spaces.

Gawler Cultural Heritage Centre

The Cultural Heritage Centre presented two exhibitions in 2021, the international touring exhibition 'Recovering the Past' and the Heritage Gallery exhibition 'Golden Land' which was a recipient of a National Award for Excellence from Interpretation Australia. In April 2022 the new exhibition 'Behind the Scenes' opened and will run for twelve months.

There were 6,377 visitors to the Heritage Gallery, 257 people utilizing the Heritage Research Centre and 18 programmed events with 397 attendees. The History Festival in May was once again a busy month with the Cultural Heritage Centre hosting or co-hosting 10 events at the Civic Centre. 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.

Cultural heritage volunteers donated 1,662 hours of work over the financial year and working with Council Staff, they added another 851 entries into the Gawler Heritage Collection online cloud-based catalogue system, 'e-hive'. Staff also contributed to the renewal of the Historic Gawler Walking Trail signage, the Kaurna Cultural Mapping Project, and the filming of an episode of the SBS television program 'Who do you think you are' with Dr Chris Brown.

Café

On 1 July 2021, it was exciting to announce that Metropolitan

Canteens SA was engaged to manage the Café at the Gawler Civic Centre. 'Metro Café' opened for business from Monday 9 August 2021, delivering a fresh, daily, home-style menu. The Café has provided both a casual place to dine for Centre users and catering for various functions and events (internal and external to the Gawler 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 have 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 also home to the Gawler and District Youth Workers Network (Child-friendly focus). Meeting regularly with diverse groups of children and youth providers allowed members to access local knowledge and opportunities for young people within our community. Youth Space memberships capture regular uses of the space and enable future planning around the young people's interests and wellbeing. At the end of the 2021 calendar year, the Youth Space had 91 members. Ending the financial year, June 2022, the Youth Space had 48 members registered. Considering the continual effects of COVID-19 on the community/state in 2021/2022, 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. During the year they hosted monthly, Thursday night Social Nights for existing and new members. They are already planning for their 150th Birthday celebrations in early 2023.



National Award winning exhibition - 'Golden Land'



Community Engagement

The Town of Gawler is committed to delivering effective community engagement to identify and understand community concerns and aspirations and support mutual communication and deliberation. This assists in building effective partnerships and encourages the community to be actively involved in the development of policies and decision making processes. The following are community engagement initiatives undertaken by Council in 2021/22:

Review of 2017-2020 Town Centre Car Parking Strategy	August to September 2021
New Public Toilet Façade Design	August to September 2021
Gawler West Playground - New Basketball Half Court	September 2021
Humphrey George Reserve - New Basketball Half Court	September 2021
Greater Adelaide Cycle Way	October 2021
Play Communication Boards in Playgrounds	October to November 2021
Barossa, Light and Lower Northern Region Regional Public Health Plan	February to March 2022
Murray South (Dead Man's Pass) Culvert Rehabilitation (inform only)	March to April 2022
Redbanks Road, Willaston Pedestrian Crossing (inform only)	March to April 2022
Karbeethan Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1	Ongoing to start of construction
Minor Traffic Investigations	July 2021 to June 2022
Development of Ageing Well Framework	December 2021 to June 2022
Essex Park & Gawler Showgrounds Regional Sporting Precinct Master Plan implementation	March to July 2022
Princes Park Community Recreation Hub Stage 1	April to May 2022
Aspire Playground	April to May 2022
2022/23 Annual Budget / Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plan	April to May 2022
Participatory Budgeting	April to June 2022
New Princes Park Basketball Court Designs	May to June 2022
Edith, Blanche and Short Streets Road Safety Interventions	June 2022
Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP)	May to June 2022
Draft Gawler Rural Areas Land Capability Assessment	June 2022
Draft Asset Management Plans; Open Space, Stormwater, Transport	June 2022

Gawler Fringe

Brining community together at events, such as the Fringe builds vibrancy and local pride. The 2022 Gawler Fringe was held across the Town from Friday 18 February to Saturday 19 March 2022. This was the eighth successive year that Council has participated in the Fringe and the sixth year that the opening event has occurred in Walker Place.



Gawler Fringe - art exhibition

The Gawler Civic Centre hosted a comprehensive program of events and activities. The Gawler Fringe formed part of the Adelaide Fringe.

It is estimated that more than 2,000 people attended the vast range of 2022 Gawler Fringe events that spanned the month of Fringe.

The 2022 Gawler Fringe saw the most comprehensive program implemented to date with a total of 34 local events listed within the Adelaide Fringe program. These were a combination of Town of Gawler delivered events as well as other activities occurring across the Town hosted and implemented by various community groups and businesses.

Both Walker Place and the Gawler Civic Centre were Adelaide Fringe registered venues for this year's Gawler Fringe. An extensive program of events was delivered that included live music, library events and activities, youth focused activities, children's entertainment, cabaret, circus, film, comedy, quiz night, Nunga Fringe, and the Gawler Fringe Art Exhibition. A Fringe in the Park event occurred at Hemafood Grove Reserve highlighting the newly developed playground in Gawler East.

South Australian History Festival

The Gawler community enthusiastically embraces the activities of the History Festival and ten historical associations and community organisations partnered with the Town of Gawler to create an exciting month long program of events. With twenty events occurring at various locations across the town, there were multiple opportunities to experience different aspects of Gawler's heritage. The Cultural Heritage Centre was responsible for hosting or supporting 10 events at the Civic Centre. These included workshops, guest speakers, guided exhibition tours and a reunion of Telephonists and Technicians who worked at the Gawler Telephone Exchange. To promote the variety of activities on offer, Council Staff collaborated with the relevant community heritage organisations to create and produce a Gawler History Festival brochure of events. The brochure was distributed across the town and proved popular, requiring a second print run.

Marketing and Communications

The 2021/22 year saw Council's Marketing and Communications department begin implementing the Digital Marketing Strategy 2021-2023, starting with the employment of a new Digital Marketing Officer to drive and deliver the key goals outlined in the Strategy. The need to invest and improve Council's communication methods and interactions with local and other communities facilitated an awareness and engagement with Councils past, present and future history.

The aim of the Digital Marketing Strategy is to:

- Drive the Council's broader marketing plan and activity online
- Consolidate online communication to the Council's stakeholders
- Better utilise the Council's digital platforms to connect with stakeholders
- Provide more relevant and useful information to stakeholders online
- Increase Council's visibility online amongst key stakeholders
- Ensure there is a clear and engaging content strategy in place
- Achieve consistency of messaging across all Council-owned digital platforms
- Ensure best practice guidelines are followed on all digital platforms
- Identify opportunities and risks to digital marketing success
- Guide engagement between Council and stakeholders online
- Set parameters for the monitoring, management and operation of digital platforms

Already, there has been significant improvement in terms of increased followers and reach across Council's social media channels, plus increased visitation to the Town of Gawler website, as detailed in the table below:

FACEBOOK	Total Followers	New Followers	Total Growth	Total Reach	Previous 12 Months
Town of Gawler	9,581	873	+10%	340,231	+49.2%
Gawler Aquatic Centre	4,473	299	+7.16%	130,121	+97.8%
Gawler Civic Centre	1,254	301	+31.6%	119,172	+434.5%
Gawler Cultural Heritage Centre	203	18	+9.7%	21,665	+27.8%
Gawler Public Library	1,930	212	+12.33%	35,14	+50.4%
Gawler Sport and Community Centre	4,018	295	+7.92%	25,164	-25%
Gawler Visitor Information Centre	913	63	+7.41%	2,734	-21.2%
Gawler Youth	2,937	181	+6.5%	37,088	-43.2%
INSTAGRAM	Total Followers	New Followers	Total Growth	Total Reach	Previous 12 Months
Town of Gawler	1,157	130	+12.65%	3,847	+130.9%
Gawler Aquatic and Recreation	440	96	+27.9%	538	-21.5%
Gawler Youth	2,937	98	+3.45	4,332	+100.7%
LINKEDIN	Total Followers	New Followers	Total Growth	Pageviews	Unique Visitors
Town of Gawler	661	164	+33%	1,652 (+1142.1%)	700 (+1106.9%)
TWITTER	Total Followers	New Followers	Total Growth	Profile Visits	Change V Previous
Town of Gawler	1011	12	+1.2%	477 (last 28 days)	+90.8% (last 28 days)
YOUTUBE	Total Followers	New Followers	Total Growth	Profile Visits	Change V Previous
Town of Gawler	176	38	+27.5%	8,773	-29%
WEBSITE	Pageviews	Unique Pageviews	Users	New Users	Sessions
www.gawler.sa.gov.au	369,451 (+8.79%)	290,414 (+5.91%)	116,548 (+20.1%)	114,007% (+19.4%)	180,280 (+12.46%)



OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

Town of Gawler has also been visibly more responsive in regards to interacting with users on its social platforms, and providing timely answers to questions posed by the community (either through direct messaging or commenting on posts).

Since the commencement of the Digital Marketing Officer role in October 2021 to 30 June 2022, staff have published 2,139 Facebook posts collectively across Council's various accounts (detailed in the table above), 239 tweets, 539 Instagram posts, 166 LinkedIn posts and 51 YouTube videos.

Additionally, the Marketing and Communications department has also continued to actively promote the activities of Council through traditional media and has written and circulated 39 media releases.

Arts and Culture Strategy

The Gawler Arts & Culture Strategy 2016-2025 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 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.

Contributing to the broader vision of the Strategy, the Town of Gawler Mural Project occurred, which resulted in two large-scale murals being developed by three professional artists. The murals are located in Whinnens Lane and Centenary Lane.

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

The Civic Centre and its facilities, including meeting rooms, provided opportunity for the community to engage with and embrace the townships unique history. The four Institute event spaces – James Martin Room, Institute Hall, Seating Gallery and Council Chambers – hosted



Whinnens Lane Mural Project - Arts and Culture Strategy

a number of community and corporate user and hirer groups along with a variety of Council programs, shows, events, exhibitions and meetings. The nine (9) Town Hall meeting rooms hosted a number of regular community groups and some corporate hirers. With peaks and dips in usage again throughout the year, largely due to the Coronavirus outbreaks or community or resident 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 both the Institute Event Spaces and Town Hall Meeting Rooms included: Just 4 Women (Auspice from the Women's Health Centre at Gawler Health Service), JP Services, Northern Volunteering SA, Barkuma - School Leaver Employment Support Group, Uniting SA – Parent's Next Appointments, Gawler Community Garden Group, Barossa Christadelphians, Friends of the Gawler Library, Library Book Club Meetings, Carers SA, Gawler Business Development Group and Regional Development Australia Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains (RDA).

Kaurna Cultural Mapping Project

In June 2022 a team of archaeologists, anthropologists and Kaurna representatives conducted an Aboriginal cultural assessment of the areas of significance along the North Para, the South Para and the Gawler Rivers. The cultural heritage survey of the riverbanks within the Town of Gawler boundaries will allow Council Staff to appropriately conserve and manage these areas in consultation with traditional owners. It may also provide opportunities for Aboriginal led tourism and education activities in the area. This work will build and further enhance the understanding and significance of the region's Aboriginal culture and history.

Visitor Information Centre and Community Gallery Opening

In March 2022 the Gawler Visitor Information Centre hosted the opening of the newly refurbished centre with

OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

a new Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant lift and new art gallery space on the first floor. This project was fully funded through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2. This improved community facility created a new maker space for local and regional artists to produce and showcase their works, contributing to the unique identity of Gawler.

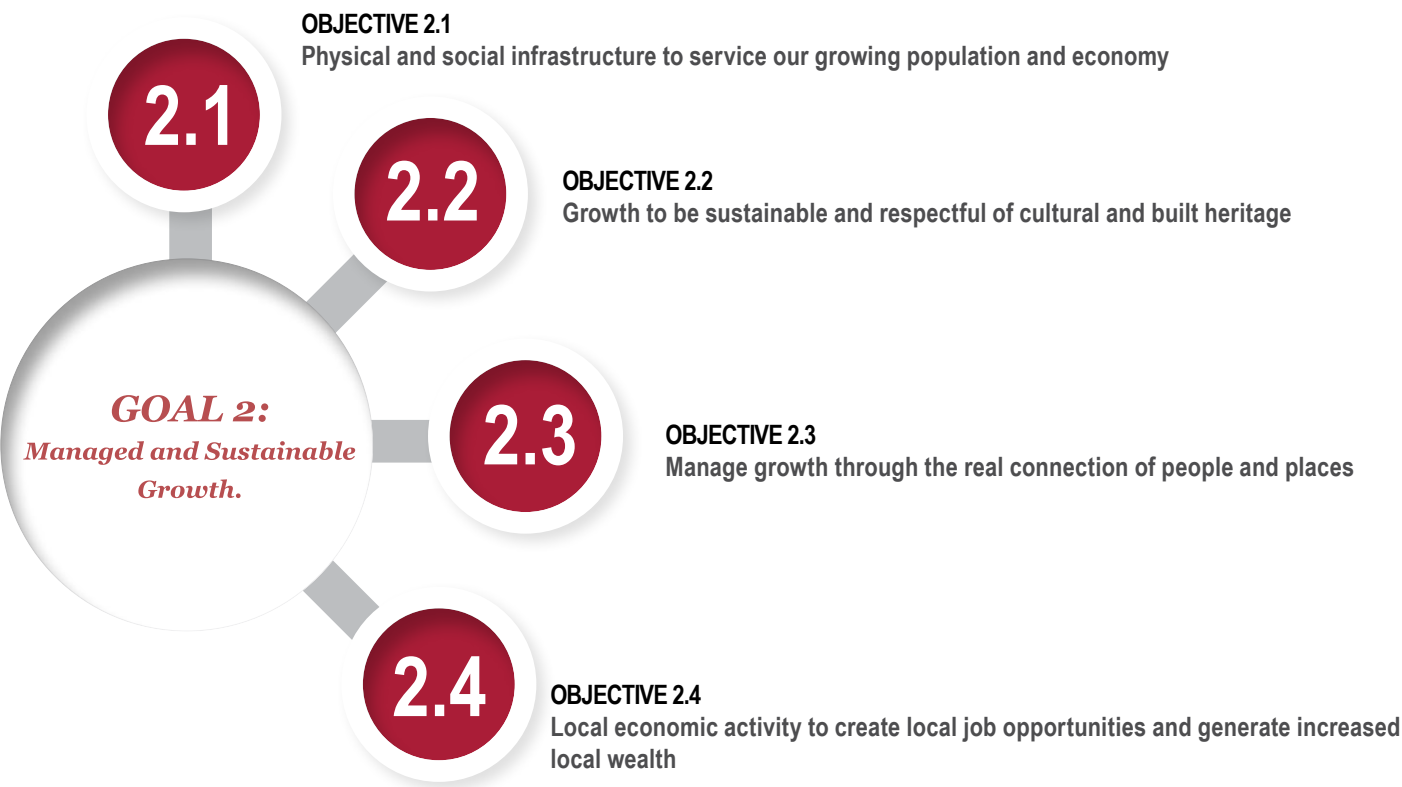
Picture Exchange Communication Boards in Playgrounds

Picture Exchange Communication Boards have been installed in five fully fenced playgrounds in Gawler. The Boards feature words and symbols to support communication in playspaces for children and the community who have additional communication needs. The Boards were personalised for the equipment in each playground in consultation with a local speech Exampathologist, Kiera Stone, and the local community. These Communication Boards are an important step forward in creating more inclusive playspaces for everyone in Gawler.



Communication Boards - Community Engagement





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 Separate Rate application
  - Southern Urban Areas
  - Gawler Cycleway
  - Annual Road Reseal and Patch Repair Program
  - Murray Street Upgrade Stage 7
  - Gawler Rail Electrification Project
  - New Apex Park Toilets
  - New Martin's Place Toilet
  - Black Spot Project
  - New Footpath Program

- OBJECTIVE 2.2** Growth to be sustainable and respectful of cultural and built heritage
- Heritage Advisory Services
  - Heritage Grant Scheme
  - Development Assessment Services
- OBJECTIVE 2.3** Manage growth through the real connection of people and places
- Mural Pocket Park
  - Playground shade structures
  - Bus Stop Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) upgrades

- 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 and Gawler Tourism Plan
  - Interstate and regional visitors to the Cultural Heritage Research Centre

**Gawler East Separate Rate Application**  
Council has continued to apply the Gawler East Separate Rate over the identified development area. The separate rate forms part of Council's advocacy and planned delivery of infrastructure, including physical and social infrastructure. This will service the Gawler East community as it grows in the coming years ultimately accommodating an anticipated 10,000 residents. The contribution model will see an estimated \$25m going towards roads, stormwater and community infrastructure.

**Southern Urban Areas**  
The Southern Urban areas continued to be developed with the Aspire development reaching its final stages of residential land divisions being created. Council has worked with the developer to have in place a orderly completion to the development ensuring that contributions to identified infrastructure outcomes are assured over the coming years. Working with the State Government have been central to these negotiations.

**Gawler Cycleway**  
As Gawler grows the need to ensure connectivity and encourage alternate modes of transport are forever pressing. The Gawler Cycleway formalises the cycling route through the Town of Gawler connecting the Stuart O'Grady Bikeway and the Barossa Trail. Gawler and Barossa Councils received a \$678,269 grant through the Regional Growth Fund to complete the Barossa Trail and Gawler Cycleway. Town of Gawler has also committed

\$513,007 towards the Gawler Cycleway. The project improves cycling safety and amenity in Gawler to encouraging local cyclists. It connects two renowned bikeways through Gawler bringing cycling-related tourism into the heart of Gawler. In 2021/22 the first 60% of the Gawler Cycleway was completed in line with the grant milestones, and the Barossa Trail was fully completed.

**Annual Road Reseal and Patch Repair Programs**  
In 2021/22 the Road Reseal Program was valued at \$924,000 and included sealing 5,771 metres of local roads of varying widths. 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 along 4,694m of locals roads was completed using 30% recycled asphalt (RAP) including Athens Terrace, Bishop Street, Britton Street, Congdon Street, Crown Street, Ellis Street, Graetz Street, Hillier Road, Hindmarsh Boulevard, Hutchins Street, Jane Street, Jacob Lane, Jarvis Street, Kendall Street, Mary Street, Rusby Drive, Scheibbener Terrace, Walter Grove, and Wintulich Avenue. Road resealing along 1,077m of local roads was completed using the Reconophalt product which incorporates recycled asphalt and recycled soft plastic and photo copier cartridges,including Churchman Court, Gum Crescent, Mulga Street, Myall Street, Oliphant Court, and Pope Court.



Kings Street Bridge



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 was the replacement of the existing vehicular King Street Bridge with a new pedestrian and cycling bridge. Council staff have continued to work with DIT and Acciona to provide feedback on the technical details and construction of the new King Street Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge, the surrounding landscaping upgrades and local road / traffic infrastructure alterations.

The GREP project required removal 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 through all stages of the project. To compensate Council for the loss of trees and vegetation Council received compensation funds of \$203,000 for the removals. \$150,000 of this compensation has been allocated to new street tree planting around the train corridor and train station networks which will be delivered in 2022/23 as part of the Getting Gawler Greener project. The remaining funds are allocated towards additional art work at the King Street Bridge which has been designed with local Kaurna artists for installation in 2022/23.



Pocket Park Mural

New Apex Park Toilet

The new public toilet in Apex Park was completed in November 2021 as part of the Walker Place Gawler Central Urban Precinct Project, which received \$1,006,361 from the State Government's Places for People grant scheme. The new toilet block features two uni-sex accessible toilet cubicles each with baby change facilities. The community consultation on the toilet façade design resulted in a façade that commemorates the natural beauty of the State Heritage listed Moreton Bay fig trees adjacent to the new toilet facility.

New Martins Place Toilet

The new public toilet in Martin's Place was completed in November 2021 and was 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 includes 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, 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 provided on the unit. The façade design of the toilet facility was selected through community consultation and pays tribute to some of Gawler's most notable history.

Black Spot Project - High Street/ Lyndoch Road

The design of the new intersection 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 reduces 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 final works were completed in July 2021. The new crossing also aligns with a strategic cycle route between The Barossa Trail and the Stuart O'Grady Bikeway through the Town Centre.

Pocket Park Mural

The new Mural Pocket Park opposite the Walker Place plaza was completed in November 2021. The park was designed to create a new open space that improves the connection of the Town Centre to the South Para River.

Playground Shade Structures

Shade structures were installed at Apex Park playground, Fifth Street playground, Hemaforde Grove playground and

the Willaston Nature Playspace. These shade structures were funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Renew Hardscaping – Dawson Road Pathway Solar LED Lighting

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

New Footpath Program

In 2021/22 Council budgeted \$210,000 for New Footpaths to be constructed around the Township.

Footpaths constructed included:

- Trevu Ave - Barossa Ave to Deland Ave
- Deland Ave - East Tce to Trevu Ave
- Deuter St - Deland Ave to End
- Quarton St - Cheek Ave to Deuter St
- Quarton Ct - Deuter St to End
- Chamberlain Rd - Existing to MNR
- Sunnyside Dr - Tingara Rd to Sunnyside Dr Cul-de-sac

Bus Stop DDA Upgrades

In 2021-22 Council has continued to fulfil their commitment to upgrade all bus stops to meet Disability Standards for Accessible Transport by December 2022. The upgrade program is now nearly complete with outcomes that continue to help improve public transport accessibility for the whole of Gawler's community.

Heritage Advisory Services

In 2021/22 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.



Murray Street Upgrade Stage 7



# OUR GROWTH - Key Achievements

## Development Assessment Services

During the 2021/22 financial year, 921 development applications were submitted, which is down 19% on the previous year when 1137 applications were submitted. This decrease can be attributed to the end of the Federal Government's Home Builder Grant, as well as global supply chain issues affecting the construction industry as a whole. This is also reflected in the 346 new dwelling applications lodged in the Council area in 2021/22 compared to 554 in 2020/21. Notwithstanding these external factors, development activity is still considered to be strong in the town.

A total of 14 Development Applications were brought before the Council Assessment Panel during 2021/22, a significant decrease from 46 in 2020/21. This decrease is attributed to the transition from the Development Act to the Planning Development and Infrastructure Act last year resulting in fewer applications delegated to the Council Assessment Panel for a decision. Of the applications referred to the Council Assessment Panel, twelve (86%) were granted Planning Consent and two (14%) were refused, compared to 35 (78%) approved, eight (18%) refused, and two (4%) deferred in 2020/21.

## Willaston Cemetery Conservation and Management Plan

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

- Installation of compacted rubble to aisles
- Paving Installation
- Border Kerb Installation

A budget allocation to progress Stage 7 has been made in 2022-23.



Willaston Cemetery Conservation and Management Plan

## 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 via a Separate Rate levied against commercial and industrial properties in accordance with Council's Strategic Rating Policy.

In 2021/22 the funding amount provided to the GBDG was \$182,616.

The GBDG has met its obligations under the funding agreement for the 2021/2022 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:

- 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. Council has authorised a new funding agreement to be executed to support GBDG for a further two years commencing on 1st July 2022 with the option of extending for a further year.

## 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 \$40,561 to RDA BGLAP.

# OUR GROWTH - Key Achievements

## Business Innovation Hub

Since October 2021, Council staff have coordinated the operations of the Business Innovation Hub (BIH) from the previous external operator, Mr Andrew Morris. The BIH continued to engage with GigCity and SABRENet as a GigCity Precinct and partnered with BRACE Education to deliver another entrepreneurial start up business case development program.

Staff met with local business members of the BIH to discuss their individual business needs. This included:

- reviewing membership options and associated fees confirming BIH occupancy and seat availability
- conducting inductions for all existing and new casual and permanent BIH members
- auditing access cards
- instigating invoicing direct from Council
- implementing procedures for casual members
- drafting membership agreements for all permanent BIH members.

Workshops and reports involving Council Members, Council staff and members of the BIH were held throughout the year, regarding proposed operating models for the BIH moving forward. Council staff will continue to maintain responsibility for the operational management of the BIH until at least the end of the 2022/23 financial year. A trial collaboration between RDA BGLAP and GBDG to deliver Business Innovation Hub incubator programs and services will occur in 2022/23.

Membership of the BIH continued to grow throughout the year, with additional permanent and casual members joining resulting in the BIH nearing full capacity. Complimentary part-time memberships continued to be provided to RDA BGLAP and GBDG.

## Gawler Economic Development Strategy and Gawler Tourism Plan

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. The Strategy identifies actions for delivery under six 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

Council collaborates with the Economic Development Strategy Reference Group to oversee the delivery of the Economic Development Strategy and take advantage of opportunities that arise on a local and regional level.

In line with this Strategy Council has continued to deliver various projects that support further economic growth

- opportunities for the region, such as:
- Council have invested in new infrastructure such as Murray Street Stage 7 Upgrade which now allows for safer, improved freight movements to the CBD
  - New public conveniences in the heart of Gawler being a Changing Places public convenience in Martin's Place and a new public convenience at Apex Park
  - The refurbishment of the Visitor Information Centre including the installation of a lift to allow the Gawler Community Gallery to utilise Level 1 of the building, further solidifying investment in the Arts and Tourism sectors
  - The Visitor Economy was further stimulated through Gawler's entry into the Top Tourism Town Awards resulting in the production of a promotional video, the development of a fresh itinerary and editorial collateral. The awards are promoted heavily by the Tourism Industry Council of South Australia throughout the state, with the promotional video being voted on through the awards process for a "People's Choice Award." Whilst Gawler did not win in its category the development of the new promotional material will provide fresh opportunities for the marketing and promotion of Gawler

## Interstate and Regional visitors to the Cultural Heritage Research Centre

During the financial year, 257 people visited the Cultural Heritage Centre for the purpose of research. 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, intrastate visitors from Strathalbyn, Kangaroo Island, Eyre Peninsula, Adelaide Hills, Barossa and Adelaide.

Interstate researchers also connected with the Centre with five visitors from Victoria, five from Queensland, and one from New South Wales. There were two researchers from Tasmania including one researcher who spent five days staying in Gawler while accessing the Research Centre.



Interstate visitors to the Cultural Heritage Research 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
  - Ageing Well Framework
  - Youth Artist Sponsorship Program
  - School Holiday Programs
  - Public Health and Food Safety
  - Public Health and COVID-19
  - Immunisation Services
  - Gawler Civic Centre shows and events
  - Gawler Libraries
  - 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
  - Half basketball courts (Gawler West Playground and Tingara/Humphrey George Reserve)
  - Visitor Information Centre – lift integration and fitout
  - Gawler Aquatic Centre infrastructure works

- OBJECTIVE 3.3** Recognise, respect, support and advocate on behalf of volunteers
- Volunteering with Gawler Council
  - Volunteer recognition events
  - Cultural Heritage Centre volunteers
  - Gawler Visitor Information Centre
- OBJECTIVE 3.4** Encourage the development of the Arts and creative sector
- Visitor Information Centre redevelopment
  - Civic Centre Youth Space
  - Events
  - Gawler Reconciliation Action Plan
  - National Reconciliation Week
  - NAIDOC Week
  - Youth Urban Arts Program
  - Youth Artist Sponsorship Program
  - Gawler Civic Centre art exhibitions

**Home Assist Program**  
The Home Assist Program received external funding (\$594,206) through the Department of Health's Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP). This funding enabled Council to provide practical home support services aimed at keeping residents aged 65 years and plus (or 50 years plus if Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander), out of residential care by assisting them to continue to live independently within their own communities.

In 2021/22, the Home Assist Program provided support to 593 older residents. In this time, they provided:

- 7009 hours of domestic assistance, which included 6841 hours of cleaning plus 168 hours of shopping on behalf of a resident. At the end of June 2022, the domestic service type was operating at maximum capacity
- 2756 hours of individual social support. This included 2342 hours of accompanied support (predominantly shopping), 235 hours of connection via the phone and 179 hours of friendly home visiting. This represented a 36.5% increase from the previous year
- 1664 hours of minor home maintenance services and gardening, which included assistance with tasks such as gutter cleans and other height related tasks
- \$4335 of home modifications installed, the most common being handheld rails to support safe transfers within the home

Overall, the Home Assist Program registered a 12.8% increase in reportable outputs, despite the workforce being heavily impacted by COVID-19. Staff continued to operate the Program applying a flexible approach to service delivery, ensuring it could continue to respond to changing need and demand within the community, despite the fact that most service types were already operating at capacity.

**Town of Gawler Ageing Well Framework**  
The development of the Ageing Well Framework was supported by an Age Friendly SA grant from the Office for

Ageing Well, SA Health. The Framework was developed by The Plug-In, the social enterprise arm of COTA SA, in partnership with the Town of Gawler, following broad consultation with the community, Council Members and staff between December 2021 and June 2022.

The Framework aims to establish principles and practices that inform relevant, timely and responsive action across all areas of Council. It is underpinned by Council's community plan and other strategic documents, which aim to make Gawler an accessible, inclusive and sustainable community.

By addressing and overcoming barriers to the wellbeing and participation of older people, the Framework aims to support the Town of Gawler to create an age-friendly city.

**Youth Sportsperson Sponsorship Program**  
The purpose of the Youth Sportsperson Sponsorship Program is to recognise and encourage the achievements of young people aged 12-25 in our community by providing sponsorship for State and National representation in sporting activities. In 2021/2022, the Youth Sportsperson Sponsorship Program was again severely affected by the impact of COVID-19 with a reduction in opportunities for young people to participate in elite sporting programs. This year, Council supported six young people with sponsorships totalling \$600.

**School Holiday Programs**  
This year, Council delivered 33 school holiday programs through the Gawler Youth Space, with 912 young people attending these programs. The school holiday programs were severely affected by the impact of COVID-19, with seventeen planned programs cancelled.

The programs offered a range of development areas of interest to young people. Skill programs focussed on gaining entry-level skills where a certificate, skill or qualification can be attained. School holiday programs provided the following skills - Barista, First Aid, cooking,



Gawler History Festival Launch



# OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

film making, writing, learn to complete a TAX return and preparing to drive. In the Youth Space, 103 Youth participated in a skill development program. A highlight of the April school holidays was the annual Skate Park event where 451 people attend throughout the day. Another highlight in the April school was Gawler Youth Band's (GYB) first live performance.

Various other Council coordinated or supported School Holiday programs were also offered via the Gawler Public Libraries, Gawler Sport and Community Centre, Gawler Aquatic Centre, Gawler Civic Centre and Cultural Heritage Centre.

### 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
- 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 the 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.

Other environmental services included assessment of wastewater works applications, registration of warm water systems (cooling towers) and managing general



Mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinic

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 relevant to COVID-19. Officers also completed inspections to check for compliance with restrictions implemented by the State Government under numerous Emergency Management Directions. A total of 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. Clinics were 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.

### Mobile Vaccination Clinic

The Town of Gawler received a grant of \$35,040 from Wellbeing SA for the "Promoting Vaccine Uptake in Gawler and Surrounds" project. The aim of this project was to promote vaccination information, foster

# OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

opportunities for local vaccination services and to remove logistical barriers to vulnerable groups.

### Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan

The development and implementation of the Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan will help future-proof Karbeethan Reserve as a key Regional Sporting and Community Precinct. The project caters for the existing Reserve users - baseball, soccer and softball, and in the longer term, facilities for gymnastics and dance sports. There will also be a significant active and open recreation space for the broader community. Council adopted the Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan in July 2020, following broad community consultation, as well as additional targeted engagement with key facility stakeholders. Following the adoption of the Master Plan by Council, further work has been 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.

Council was successful in obtaining \$900,000 in external funding for Stage 1 of the Karbeethan Reserve Redevelopment. Collaborative advocating from Council and the Gawler Eagles Football Club were able to secure a \$1m election promise in the event of the Labor Party winning the 2022 State Election. This funding will contribute to the development of a synthetic soccer pitch at Karbeethan Reserve. Council has also included the design for a synthetic soccer pitch into the Karbeethan Reserve Redevelopment Stage 1 project and is progressing design development for all project elements early in 2022-23 in anticipation of construction later in the coming financial year

The expansion of Karbeethan Reserve to meet the needs of the growing Gawler community has been identified as a key component of the Master Plan. In early 2022, Council received external funding through the State Governments Open Space Grant Program towards the expansion of the regional sporting and community recreation precinct.

### 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. 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.

### Gawler Civic Centre Shows and Events

Council staff continue to encourage and welcome the wider Gawler community to discover, connect, innovate and grow with the variety of programs, events, shows and exhibitions available throughout the Gawler Civic Centre.

This year's shows and events calendar, which was again highly impacted by COVID-19 and the subsequent capacity and operational restrictions and community hesitation, included:

- Best of The Beggars Matinee
- Let's Go To Tokyo: The Olympic Games show
- Friday Night Live with Gawler Town Band
- \*Daniel Koek's West End Sessions with Amelia Ryan & Michael Griffiths
- 80's Baby: A Kids Disco
- \*A Night of Big Laughs featuring Georgie Carroll
- Our Christmas Favourites
- \*Santa's Workshops 2021
- Ryan Razi Magic Show
- Gawler Fringe program
- STEMmania: The Science Collective Expo
- Here Comes The Sun: Beatles Tribute by Rachael Leahcar
- History Festival events
- Nunga Screen Film Festival 2022

\* Sold Out shows/events

### Youth Urban Arts Program

The Youth Urban Arts Program saw some talented young musicians and singers perform live at the Gawler Fringe in Walker Place and the Fringe in the Park event. Gawler Fringe 2022 also included a drama performance and the debut of a film made by local young people. Handmade clay sculptures made by Gawler's young people were displayed at the Gawler Fringe Art Exhibition.

### 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 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. This year, the Program was severely affected by the impact of COVID-19 and many art programs were suspended. This reduced opportunities to participate in artist programs with only two young people gaining sponsorships totalling \$200.

Council has commenced the implementation of the Essex Park & Gawler Showgrounds Regional Sporting Precinct Master Plan in 2022, following the successful attraction of \$356,500 in funding from the State Government's Open Space and Places for People program. This funding will assist with the delivery of the first component of the Master Plan – Princes Park Community Recreation Hub Stage 1. The design for the first stage of the recreation hub, sees a community basketball court at the heart of



# OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

the project, providing much needed unstructured active recreation to the area with construction scheduled to commence in the second half of 2022. Council has also commenced stakeholder engagement and design for the development of new community structures located at the northern end of Princes Park for the Gawler & Districts Racing Pigeon Club, Gawler Show Society and the Gawler Veteran, Vintage & Classic Vehicle Club.

**Gawler & District Netball Association facility upgrade**  
Collaborative advocating from Council and the Gawler & District Netball Association resulted in securing \$4.8million from an election promise in the event of the Labor Party winning the 2022 State Election. Funding will contribute to a full redevelopment of the Association's netball courts. Council is continuing to work with the Gawler & District Netball Association and the Office for Recreation, Sport & Racing towards the design and delivery of the ten new compliant courts, complete with LED sports lighting.

**Gawler Aquatic Centre**  
Mayor Karen Redman officially opened the 59th season of the Gawler Aquatic Centre on Saturday, 9 October 2021. To celebrate the facility offered \$2 entry fee, music and extended dive board open hours for the day, which was well received by the community. The 2021/22 season total attendance was 60,420 entries, an increase from the previous season's attendance of 58,834 (+2.69%). The Gawler Aquatic Centre also continued to experienced service disruption due to COVID-19, particularly affecting staff and operations of the Centre.

The Learn to Swim Program saw a minor decrease of -5.01% of total enrolments for the season which was a direct result of COVID-19 related disruptions, and the conversion from VACSWIM to the Centre's own Swim Safe program. All other programs increased participation or maintained enrolment numbers as in previous years. For the third 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 276 vouchers were redeemed, up from 223 from the previous season and provided financial incentive to families by helping to make swimming lessons affordable.

Some of the season highlights include:

- for the second consecutive season the Learn to Swim program reaching greater than 80% capacity and the implementation of a waiting list
- Two new group fitness activities, deep water aqua and land based yoga commenced in the season. The group fitness activities were in addition to the already running Aquaerobics classes, which have a strong community following
- Expanded the options available for booking birthday parties to include a hosted and catered option. The catered only option provides entry, party food and a

reserved birthday party area whereas the hosted option offers entry, party food, a reserved birthday party area and a qualified Aquatic staff member to supervise and host, providing games and activities for party guests.

- The Swimming and Water Safety Program for local, public primary and junior primary school children provided 8,451 lessons throughout the season. There has been a reduction in participation from the previous two season due to COVID-19, but the program still represents an invaluable resource to primary school aged children

The centre closed on Thursday 14 April 2022 in line with the end of Term 1 and Easter.

**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. This year, 79,424 visitors attend these popular facilities to engage in educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment, a 2.03% increase from the previous year.

Council run programs, gentle fitness and skating programs continue to grow in popularity and participants. Over 1,040 participants attended gentle fitness classes representing a decrease of 18.49% when compared to the previous year. For the first time two new group fitness classes, Zumba and Barre were introduced as a trial on Wednesday night attracting 53 participants.

A total of 14,110 participants attended the very popular skating sessions. This represents an increase of 2,782 from the previous year. Theme skating nights are well attended and well-liked by the community with school holiday programs contributing to the increase, together with the growing promotion of the program to the local community.

Continual reductions with COVID-19 restrictions have attracted more people back to the Sport and Community Centre and Elderly Centre and this is expected to continue into the 2022/23 financial year.

**Hemaford Reserve Playspace Upgrade**  
Following successful receipt of grant funding under the Commonwealth Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, Council completed the design and construction 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. The playspace was opened in

# OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

November 2021 with positive community feedback and has been a successful host site for a 2022 Fringe event.

**Half basketball courts (Gawler West Playground and Tingara/Humphrey George Reserve)**  
Council completed the design and construction of half basketball courts in the Gawler West Playground and Tingara/Humphrey George Reserve in consultation with the local community. The courts have been a success for local residents and offer a popular activity for all ages. The Gawler West Playground was funded through the Commonwealth Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

**Gawler Aquatic Centre Infrastructure Works**  
Council continues the provision of high quality community aquatic services for the Gawler and regional community to enjoy, while planning for ongoing maintenance and upgrading of the ageing Aquatic Centre. There were no major infrastructure works undertaken during the Aquatic Centre offseason, with Council undertaking significant investigations and planning in relation to two key aspects of the facility:

- 50m pool filtration.
- Heating of pool water across all three pools

Council implemented a Water Quality Risk Management Plan for the 2021-22 Aquatic Centre season providing an increased level of rigor to pool water analysis and treatment while planning for the replacement of the 50m pool filtration system. The heating of pool water at the Centre is the single largest user of natural gas across all of Council's operations. A key component of Council's draft Climate Emergency Action Plan is the future elimination of natural gas use. Council has taken the opportunity while planning for the replacement of the 50m pool filtration to investigate the feasibility of heating pool water with alternatives to natural gas and include viable alternatives within the overall plant room redesign. Council is working towards undertaking capital works across the 2023 offseason to avoid any disruption for facility users.

**Gawler Visitor Information Centre**  
The Gawler Visitor Information Centre assisted with 6,500 visitor enquiries a decrease on previously years, attributable to COVID-19 and the temporary re-location while construction took place. These enquiries could not be serviced without the wonderful contribution of the 24 volunteers who generously gave up their time to welcome visitors to Gawler. During the year they provided 4,000 hours sharing their passion of our Town, encouraging visitors to stay longer and experience all that Gawler has to offer.

Specialised guided tours are also delivered through the Visitor Information Centre with the assistance of a small group of professionally trained volunteers. These volunteers recognise the wealth of history within our Town through a range of walking tours and deliver a heritage tour of our Town to visitors on private bus tours.

**Civic Centre Youth Space**  
The Gawler Youth Space has provided a safe space for young people to attend free term programs and free/ subsidised school holiday programs. Programs offered are primarily directed at individuals aged 12-25 years, although young people aged 8-11 years can attend where appropriate.

With a focus on Health and Wellbeing, young people had many opportunities to engage in fun/skilled social activities in a safe and supported environment. The Gawler Youth Advisory Committee helps guide the direction and development of the Youth Space programs.

The Youth Space is also home to the Gawler and District Youth Workers Network (Child-friendly focus). Meeting regularly with diverse groups of child and youth providers allowed 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's interests and wellbeing. At the end of the 2021 calendar year, the Youth Space had 91 members. Ending the financial year, June 2022, the Youth Space had 48 members registered. Considering the effects of COVID-19 on the community/ state, the memberships and usage of the space have remained positive.

**Visitor Information Centre – Lift Integration and Fitout**  
In March 2022 the Gawler Visitor Information Centre hosted the opening of the newly refurbished centre with a new DDA compliant lift and new art gallery space on the first floor. This project was fully funded through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2 and provides a new home for the Gawler Community Gallery.



Official Opening, Visitor Information Centre Lift Integration and Fit-out



# OUR COMMUNITY – Key Achievements

## 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 that will be launched in the second half of 2022.

## National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) takes place each year from 27 May to 3 June, and 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 2022 theme was 'Be Brave. Make Change.' Council is actively involved in the planning and implementation of annual events held during NRW.

In 2022, Nunga Screen was held at the Gawler Civic Centre during NRW. Nunga Screen is a free short film showcase that shared and celebrated First Nations culture, stories and language, through film. Several community cultural learning sessions also took place in recognition of NRW. These sessions were facilitated by Kuma Kaaru Cultural Services.

## Events

Community events encourage a sense of place and excitement, and provide an opportunity for increased community interaction, celebration and gathering. A key aspect of which relate to the Arts and the creative sector.

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

- National Reconciliation Week Events
- Gawler Show
- Christmas Carols (delivered as Santa's Workshop)
- Australia Day
- ANZAC and Remembrance Day
- NAIDOC Week Events
- Rotary Village Fair

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 community groups, individual's and touring Art Exhibitions were held at the Civic Centre throughout the year for access to the public including:

- All-In-For Art (Feros Care)
- SA Inspired Art Exhibition (SALA)
- Pushing Up Daisies, Eco Coffin Project Art Exhibition (SALA)
- Recovering The Past Touring Exhibition
- 2021 Mayor's Christmas Card Competition Exhibition
- 16 Days of Activism Against Domestic Violence Exhibition
- Library Lover's Day Exhibition
- 2022 Gawler Fringe Art Exhibitions – Colours, Moods & Shapes by Martin Johnson, Gawler In Photographs by Daniel Down, Managing My Mind by various artists, Straight From The Heart by Sarah Caruana, Pieces of Me & Stepping Into The Night by The Mavens and Sculptures by Gawler Youth
- Zonta's International Women's Day Display
- All Things Acrylic Art Exhibition by Patricia Harvey
- Down on the Farm Art Exhibition by Tineta Ellis
- NAWMA Information Display
- Gawler Natural History Exhibition by Gawler Environment & Heritage Association
- Nunga Screen Film Festival 2022 (Reconciliation Week event)

## NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week takes place each year in July. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and an opportunity to recognise the contributions that First Nations people make to our country, our society and our communities.

Each year Council partners with the community to facilitate and host a range of NAIDOC Week activities and events like the Gawler NAIDOC Luncheon, NAIDOC themed storytime sessions, author talks and other cultural learning workshops.

## Gawler Libraries

The Gawler Libraries provide 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. The Libraries offered a range of programs and events for children and adults, including school holiday activities, digital literacy programs, early literacy storytime sessions, Library Lego sessions, book clubs, craft and mindfulness

# OUR COMMUNITY – Key Achievements

activities for adults such as macramé, journaling and watercolour and author talks. In addition to events held inside the Library branches, Storytime sessions were also held in local parks and at the Gawler Aquatic Centre. Events such as National Simultaneous Storytime, Adelaide Writers' Week, the Fringe and Reconciliation Week were also celebrated. This year, 169 events were held with 2,267 attendees at those events.

In late 2021-22, the Gawler Libraries successfully applied for an Early Childhood Community Innovation Grant from the Local Government Association, to create a small activity garden at the rear of the Evanston Gardens Library. The activity garden is currently in development, and will be a child-friendly space suitable for outdoor storytime sessions and other early childhood programs.

## Volunteer Recognition Events

National Volunteer Week was held from 16-22 May 2022. It continues to be Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering. In recognition of this important occasion, a morning tea was held so that Council Members and staff could acknowledge the important contribution that volunteers continue to have on so many of Council's programs and services. In addition, the event was used to acknowledge four volunteers who were being recognised for their respective ten, fifteen, twenty and twenty-five consecutive years of service to the Town of Gawler.

Throughout the week, there was also a strong social media campaign that aimed to not only recognise

existing volunteers, but to also promote and celebrate volunteering with Council.

## Volunteering with Gawler Council

Volunteers help to bring people together, strengthen our communities and help to create a better society for everyone. While Gawler as a community boasts a range of volunteer opportunities, across a diverse range of organisations, Council also maintains its own volunteer program. They help Council to deliver a range of its services and they operate across a number of different Council programs. This includes:

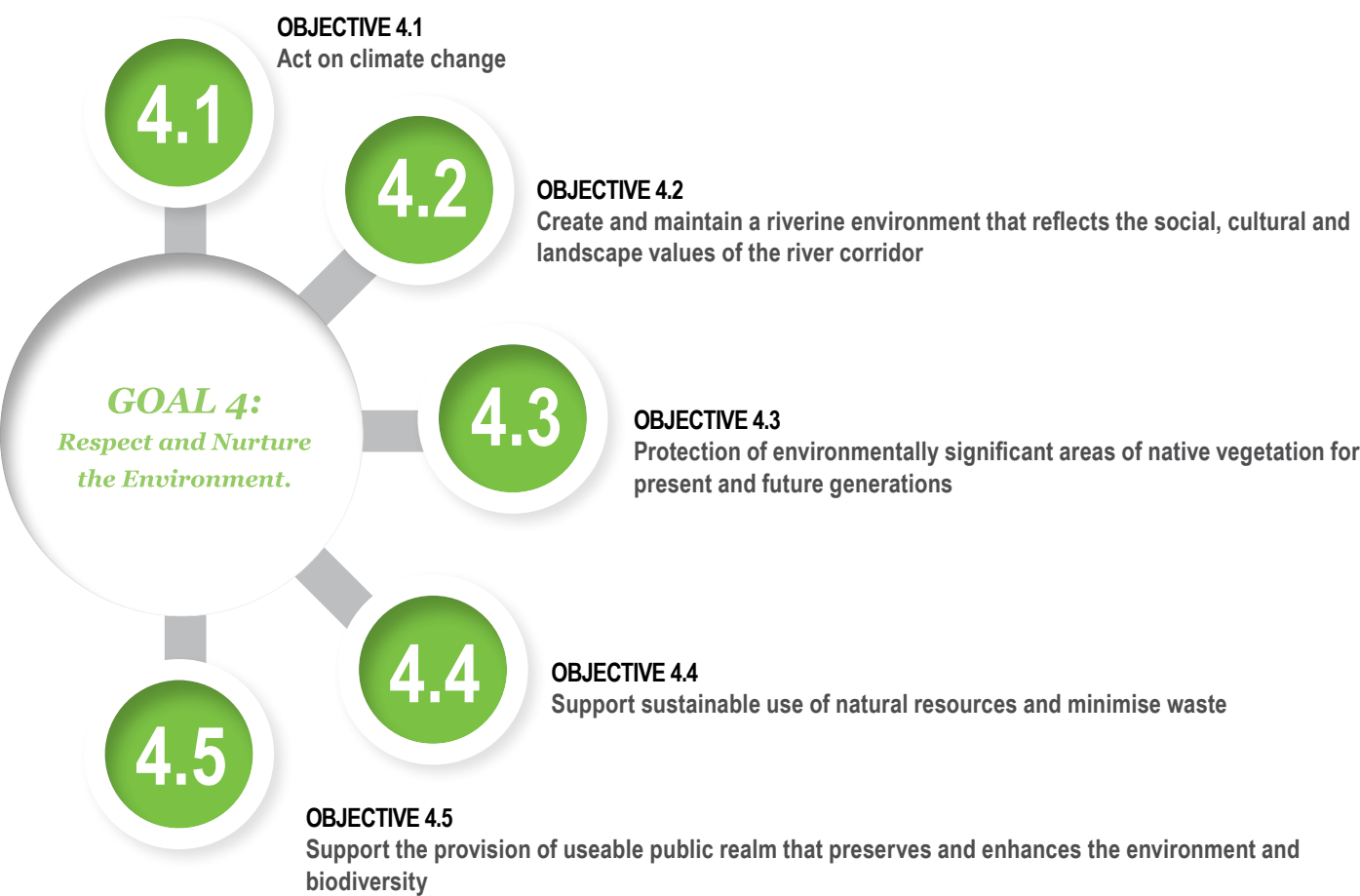
- Civic Centre
- Clock Tower
- Cultural Heritage Centre
- Graffiti Removal Program
- Home Assist Program
- Library
- Recreation Program (Skating)
- Visitor Information Centre
- Youth Space / Program

This year, the Town of Gawler had 99 active volunteers registered across its Council programs. Collectively, they volunteered 7471 hours, an increase of 17.8% on the previous year. While every Council program saw a growth in the number of reported volunteer hours over the past twelve months, the Library, Youth Program and Cultural Heritage Centre saw the highest increase. This in part can be attributed to the creation of new volunteer opportunities in those programs.



Volunteer Graffiti Removal Team





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**  
In 2019, the Town of Gawler 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 developed a working group consisting of Elected Members, community members and council staff to develop a Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP). The CEAP aims to guide Council in reducing its emissions, support the 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 was released for public consultation during July and August 2022 and has received strong community support. Through the process to develop the Plan with the CEAP Working Group, Council has already identified feasible opportunities and is taking action including:

- **Public Lighting** - Gawler's street lighting is scheduled to be upgraded with more efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology by December 2022. This improvement project will result in better quality lighting and major cost and energy reductions, saving Council up to \$200,000 per year in operational costs (\$120,000 per year with depreciation)
- **Electricity Procurement** - Council initiated an Electricity Working Group across Councils throughout the State to collaborate with LGA Procurement and seek 100% renewable electricity options as part of the next group electricity procurement contract
- **On Site solar** - Council's newer solar systems installed on the Gawler Civic Centre and the Evanston Gardens library have performed well during the first 12 months of operations, reducing cost and emissions. These build on the success of the installations on the Gawler Civic Centre and Sports and community centre
- **Electric Vehicles** - Council has placed an order for its first full electric light vehicle to trial. Council has updated its existing community recharging stations to medium charging speed units of 22 kW at the Gawler Administration Centre and the Visitor Information Centre
- **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
- **Natural Gas Use** - This year, Council commenced a feasibility analysis of alternative options for heating the pool water, to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions while maintaining current Aquatic Centre service levels

**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 Ordinary meetings, one Special Board meeting, and three Technical Assessment Panel meetings during the report period. Further, the GRMA's Audit Committee met on four occasions.

The GRFMA subsidiary again provided the vehicle for collaborative engagement amongst the six constituent council's over the reporting period and enabled productive engagement with State and Federal Government agencies and other key stakeholders.

Key Achievements of the GRFMA during this period were:

- Adoption of the inaugural GRFMA Strategic Plan for 2021-2026
- Progression of the Stormwater Management Plan
- Major maintenance of the Bruce Eastick North Para Flood Mitigation Dam
- Advancement of GRFMA Charter Review II (cost contributions model)
- Engagement with State Government on the Gawler River Flood Mitigation Business Case

**Gawler Urban Rivers Biodiversity Program**  
Council with the assistance of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, continued the 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 plants 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: Giant Reed, Ash trees, African Boxthorn, Wild Olive, Cactus and Peppercorns.



# OUR ENVIRONMENT - Key Achievements

## Kaurna Cultural Heritage Mapping Project

This Project will deliver a cultural assessment of areas of significance along the North Para, South Para and Gawler Rivers to documenting the cultural heritage of the region. The Aboriginal cultural heritage survey work will assist Council to identify and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and/or areas of potential heritage sensitivity in view of its legal obligations under the SA Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988.

## Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Committee

Councils provide data to the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Committee about risk reduction activities and input into the review of Councils Bushfire Management Area Plans (BMAP). BMAP's outline the work needed to manage bushfire risks and the broader landscape, with a focus on prevention rather than fighting fires.

Council is represented at the Bushfire Management Committee, which 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.

## Fire Prevention Program

On a yearly basis, Council's Fire Prevention Officers (FPO'S) raise awareness of the importance of fire

prevention activities. Community messaging is delivered via roadside signage, social media, local newspaper advertisements, community meetings and direct correspondence with landowners.

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. During FPO inspections during 2021/2022, there were 270 landowners who were not compliant, and issued with a section 105F Notice. Out of those property owners who were issued with notices, 29 landowners were still found to be non-compliant on second inspection and were issued with expiation notices.

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.

## Gum Tree Plaza Permeable Paving

The final elements of the Gum Tree Plaza were completed in August 2021. The project will improve the health of the significant tree, estimated to be over 150 years old. The project included new permeable paving, a sub-pavement irrigation system and a wide planting bed at its base along with hardwood seating. The alterations allow for water infiltration to the tree and oxygen exchange into the tree's base allowing it to thrive into the future.



Gum Tree Plaza Permeable Paving Project

# OUR ENVIRONMENT - Key Achievements

## Street Tree Condition & Risk Audit (Tree Plotter advanced tree management software)

A Street Tree Data collection and Risk Assessment were completed 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 were identified and will inform future tree planting programs. This project provides the necessary background information to inform a future Tree Management Strategy anticipated in 2022-23 financial year.

## Street Tree Planting Program

Council staff continues to plant and establish 300+ new street trees each financial year. Once planted the trees undertake a 2-year establishment program which includes mulching, formative pruning, weed management and watering during the dry months.

Residents have been encouraged to participate in the program and are provided a free water bucket and an information flyer to encourage them to water newly planted street trees near their homes during times of extreme heat.

## 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. The new open space areas will 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 3.10 hectares compared with last financial year, which included 0.93 hectares of new road verges and street trees, and 2.17 hectares of reserves associated with new housing estates at Aspire Estate, Clement Court, Orleana Waters, Springwood (Highfield), and Woodvale. The timing to hand over the new open space areas to Council for maintenance will align with the annual budget planning process.

## 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 2021-2022 financial year has been one of significant change for NAWMA with the impacts of COVID 19

increasing the number of people worked from home and changing purchasing and consumption habits. This has resulted in a substantial increase in the volume of household waste and recyclables collected at the kerbside.

NAWMA experienced unprecedented increases in their other services including hard waste service, Resource Recovery Centres, and information accessed through their website and customer service centre.

A number of successes were delivered through a challenging 12 months including:

- A continued and further increase in waste diverted from landfill
- A sustained increase in participation in the (opt-in) household food organics garden organics (FOGO) bin service
- Sorted more than 60,000 tonnes of kerbside recyclables meaning NAWMA was able to produce high quality finished goods such as paper, plastics, glass, aluminium, and steel. These products were marketed locally, interstate and internationally
- The use of recovered glass fines as an aggregate and sand substitute in civil applications with some 13,000 tonnes per annum being redirected from landfill and used in roads, pipe bedding and asphalt
- NAWMA's Uleybury Balefill and Renewable Energy Park using a combined solar- landfill gas farm generated power for the local community by using over 11,000 solar panels and gas extracted from 18 vertical wells



Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority



# 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 2021-2022. 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.

Council has now supported another hard waste service for the 2022/2023 financial year with ongoing support from its subsidiary NAWMA and its regional partner Eco Waste who receives waste on behalf of NAWMA.

### Gawler Residents Gain Access To Free FOGO Bins

To improve resource recovery, Council waived the price of kerbside Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bins for residents who do not yet participate in the service. To assist with collecting food scraps, residents were also provided a free ventilated kitchen benchtop caddy (made from recycled plastic) and a roll of compostable liners along with each new bin.



FOGO Bin Launch

# OUR ENVIRONMENT - Key Achievements

**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.

### Gawler receives Greener Neighbourhoods Grant Funding

The Town of Gawler has been successful in securing \$150,000 funding from the Department of Environment and Water's Greener Neighbourhoods Grants Program, supported by the Green Adelaide board for the Getting Gawler Greener Project.

The Greener Neighbourhoods Grants Program aims to financially support Adelaide metropolitan and regional councils to increase tree canopy coverage, cool neighbourhoods, and add urban greenery to streetscapes.

Getting Gawler Greener (GGG) will provide new street trees for an existing project, the Gawler Rail Electrification Project and will commence in late 2022 with the aim of planting up to an additional 300 street trees along key footpath networks into the Town's town's train stations.

### Jane Street Willaston

Jane Street in Willaston required a full road rehabilitation which was completed in March 2022. Kerb and gutter repairs were completed at key sections along the length

of the road prior to the road being rehabilitated through deep-lift road resealing. This method was chosen to minimise disruptions to the local residents while maintaining the desired asset life for the rehabilitated road.

### Hillier Fire Ground Rehabilitation –

The \$530,000 Hillier Fire Ground Rehabilitation Project has been delivered by the Town of Gawler and the Department for Environment and Water with funding assistance from the Stormwater Management Authority and the Council. The 68.38 hectare project site was identified after the December 2019 Hillier fire event which left remnants from burnt trees and vegetation within the river bed of the Gawler River, creating a risk for downstream flooding.

The project has been successfully completed including:

- Weed control to remove invasive weeds and make way for native species that promote local biodiversity and riverbank stability
- Tree maintenance to remove dead or branches at risk of falling into the river that would cause downstream blockages during a flood event
- Debris removal from within the river channel
- Reuse of retrieved materials for nature play and landscaping, firewood, and other local community activities
- Revegetation of the site using 4,000 tube stock plants to assist in reducing woody weed management and mitigate river bank erosion



Hillier Fire Ground Rehabilitation





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
- Awards and recognition
  - Community scorecard
  - Cultural Awareness Program
  - Our People Our Safety
  - Audit and Risk Committee

- OBJECTIVE 5.2** Foster and encourage community teamwork
- 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
- Gawler and Districts Community Services Forum
- 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
- Local Government Reform Bill
  - Implementation of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016
  - Traffic and parking
  - Building inspections
  - Building Fire Safety Committee
  - Electronic data management system

**Community Advocacy**  
Council has been proactive to progressing several matters at a state level which are of local and state significance. Motions have been passed by Council and subsequently presented for consideration and adoption at both a State Local Government Association level but also at National level by way of the Australian Local Government Association. Issues have included climate action and the need to improve the accounting practices associated with green energy.

Further advocacy has been pursued over the year with Council making submissions to State Government direct or by submissions made to the Local Government Association (LGA) who then act on behalf of all councils in the state. The LGA will address matters of interest and or concern to the local government sector.

**Awards and Recognition**  
Council has been acknowledged for its high standards and outcomes achieved during this period where it has received the following awards and/or short listed for nomination accordingly:  
**Walker Place Redevelopment:**  
The Project has now won three prestigious awards including the Excellence in Design and/or Construction of a Public Works Project 20/21 – Civil under \$2 million through the South Australian branch of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA), a Landscape Architecture Award 20/21 in the Civil Landscape category by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects SA, and the 2021/22 IPWEA Australasian Excellence in Design and/or Construction of a Public Works Project 20/21 – Civil under \$2 million at the IPWEA 2021/22 International Public Works Conference.  
**Golden Land: The History of Food Production in Gawler**  
The History of Food production in Gawler won the Interpretation Australia National Award for Excellence for exhibitions under \$50,000.

**Community Scorecard**  
The Community Scorecard forms a new component of Council's key performance measurement platforms and part of our strategic reporting framework including Business Plans, Financial Plans and Annual Reporting. The Community Scorecard provides a high-level view of our performance regarding the services we provide to our community and assists in monitoring the implementation of the Community Plan 2030+.

While in its infancy, the Community Scorecard includes several key performance indicators relating to financial and non-financial outcomes. Measures within the Community Scorecard are a reflection of current performance indicators and data sourced from existing processes and systems. Over time as council further develops its service levels and performance measurement capability through more sophisticated systems, additional performance indicators and data will be added. This will ultimately enhance our ability to monitor and analyse our performance.

**Cultural Awareness Program**  
Council's organisational culture centres on shared values and behaviours that set the standard for employees 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 values its employees and is focused on best practice business outcomes. Planning is underway to facilitate the third Organisational Cultural Inventory (OCI) in late 2022 with follow up workshops scheduled to review the OCI results.

**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



Council Members 2018 - 2022



and implement improvements in undertaking these elements. Council as a whole is continuing to improve and enhance its Risk Management Framework, including developing risk appetite statements that set the amount of risk Council is willing to accept in pursuing its strategic objectives. Council has continued to roll out the three-year Internal Audit Plan to give assurances that controls are designed and operating effectively. The overall construct of the Internal Audit Plan includes up to three 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 via the Audit and Risk Committee.

Audit Committee

Council has an Audit and Risk Committee, established pursuant to Section 126 of the Local Government Act 1999, which met on six 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 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
- Reviewing Council’s Risk Management Framework / Program
- Reviewing Council’s Internal Audit Program
- 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 council’s 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.

Our People

Our people are the heart of our organisation.

- The average length of service for employees at the Council (workforce tenure) is 8 years
- Workforce average age is 46

- Gender Balance - Ratio of Male and Female employees (as at 30 June 2022) Male 72, Female 73
- 138 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff as at 30 June 2022
- Annual employee turnover rate = 15.92%

Governance

The way in which Council makes decisions is by resolutions passed at Council meetings. To conduct it’s governing, regulatory and service activities effectively and efficiently, Council has in place a process of delegation. Delegation enables Council management 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 (BRPG) was 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. As a result of the collaboration the BRPG Councils achieved savings in the order of \$4.5 million since its formation in 2020.

In July 2021 a revised regional procurement model was implemented consisting of Town of Gawler, Light Regional Council and Adelaide Plains Council. The revised regional procurement model established a Regional Procurement Working Group (RPWG). The objective of the group being to facilitate a strategic approach to procurement for high value, high risk or sensitive transactions, to drive procurement excellence across the participating Councils and improve supplier capacity and competitiveness. This year, the RPWG collaborated in regards to two key strategic procurements including Street Sweeping and Cleaning of Council facilities and buildings.

The Town of Gawler continues to support the administration of the General Repairs and Building Maintenance Panel on behalf of the member councils, and facilitates bi-monthly meetings with working group members. Key achievements of the RPWG also include sharing and dissemination of procurement information relating to best practice, compliance, probity and risk management, as well as the review of current contracts and investigation of procurement opportunities across participating Councils.

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 how Council

has progressed implementation of its regional public health plan. The Plan is a collaboration between the Town of Gawler, Barossa, Light Regional and the Adelaide Plains Councils.

The Town of Gawler collaborated with the LGA to advocate to the State Government for improved mental health and suicide prevention services. Specially this included the need for more information, connecting people with improved support agencies, and undertaking studies and further research to inform advocacy on related service needs in the community. The partnership with the region’s Councils also resulted in planning for the review of the Plan during the year.

The Town of Gawler also asked the LGA to seek State Government support to address the lack of mental health outcomes and suicide prevention through providing information, connecting people with improved support agencies and undertaking studies and further research to inform advocacy on related service needs in South Australia. The partnering regional Councils also commenced planning for the review of the plan during 2021/2022.

Gawler Youth Advisory Committee

The Gawler Youth Advisory Committee is a link between young people in the Gawler community and Council. The Committee has up to 13 youth members ranging from 12-24 years of age and two elected Council members, meeting monthly in the Council Chambers at the Gawler Civic Centre. The Committee provides an opportunity for

young people to have a voice and promotes a positive image of young people in the community. In addition, they ensure current youth programs and plans remain relevant and hold Council accountable for their implementation.

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 & Districts Youth Workers Network

The Gawler & District Youth Workers Network has members from our local community, both Government and non-Government organisations that partner to promote, enhance services, and support children and young people. The Council’s 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.

Gawler Carols/Santa’s Workshop

For the second straight year, the Gawler Carols event that is coordinated in partnership with the Apex Club of Gawler was cancelled due to due to the uncertainty of COVID restrictions in December. Similar to 2020, Council staff worked with the Apex Club of Gawler to provide a ‘Christmas in Gawler’ program using the current budget allocated to the Carols Event. The following events/ activities were delivered using the Carols funding:



Gawler Band - members of the Gawler Youth Advisory committee



# OUR LEADERSHIP - Key Achievements

*Twilight Christmas Market and Christmas Performances*  
The Twilight Christmas Markets were held in Apex Park and Walker Place on Saturday 11 December. The Apex Club of Gawler coordinated the markets with assistance from Council staff for traffic management, marketing, and promotion.

As an adjunct to the Twilight Christmas Market, Council staff worked with the Apex Club of Gawler to engage some of the performers that were originally booked to appear at the 2021 Gawler Carols event to instead appear at the Gawler Civic Centre. The Town Hall balcony and Institute portico spaces were used for local musicians and carols while the Market is occurring, drawing people from Apex Park through Walker Place into Murray Street.

The Gawler Civic Centre was set to deliver an evening ticketed Christmas Performance within the Institute hall, with feature act Acoustic Juice (feature act with the Gawler Carols). Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions and community hesitancy, this event was postponed.

*Santa's Workshop*  
Following on from the success in 2020, Council staff once again worked with the Apex Club of Gawler to present Santa's Workshop at the Gawler Civic Centre from Thursday 16 to Sunday 19 December inclusive. The Workshop operated in a similar manner to 2020 with four sessions per day across the four days – most of which were sold out.

The event was again provided free of charge to participants with pre-bookings essential. Santa's Workshop was delivered in a COVID-Safe manner and provided opportunities for wider community involvement. This included Willo's Mens Shed wooden toys and gifts for sale/display and NAWMA display and promotion regarding waste-less Christmas and short workshops.



Santa's Workshop

Amazing Magic Entertainment Group once again provided the performers, sets, give-aways and music for the event. Council staff managed bookings and COVID-safety as well as assist with venue set-up/pack down and provide some decorations as per 2020. The Apex Club of Gawler once again assisted with set-up/pack-up, weekend volunteer staffing assisted and provided extra decorations. Council also delivered the *Mayor's Christmas Card Competition* and *Mayor's Giving Tree* in 2021.

**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 provides ready access to the materials used by the volunteers. Council staff in the Youth Development Program continue to work with the South Australian Police (SAPOL) 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 695 customer requests to remove graffiti
  - The graffiti volunteer team (7 members) worked 674 hours removing graffiti
  - Graffiti hits removed = 6,386

Disruption to the Program occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the dedication of the volunteers ensured that the community benefitted from their regular and prompt removal of graffiti.

**Gawler Visitor Information Centre (VIC)**  
The Gawler Visitor Information Centre has a passionate team of 24 dedicated volunteers who perform their role as ambassadors of Gawler to visitors and locals seven days a week. Four specialised tour guide volunteers offer a range of walking tours and deliver a heritage tour of our Town to visitors on private bus tours.

The VIC has attended to 6,500 visitors with 3,750 enquiries specifically relating to Gawler. COVID -19 impacted visitor numbers together with the temporary relocation of the VIC while construction took place. To contribute to meet the needs of visitors, digital enhancements to visitor information included the introduction of Facebook, Google My Business, and Trip Advisor. Achievements for the year include:

- Maintained Accreditation through the Australian Tourism Accreditation Program (ATAP)
- History Month walking tours
- Local events listing on the Town of Gawler Website
- Temporary relocation and shifting back to the Visitor Information Centre

**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

# OUR LEADERSHIP - Key Achievements

Community House works with community members to achieve social justice, personal empowerment and social change at a neighbourhood level.

**Gawler and Districts Community Services Forum**  
Council continues to facilitate the Gawler and Districts Community Services Forum, a representative group of 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 and its surrounding regions.

**Service Clubs and Sporting Clubs**  
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 in-kind support through 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.

**Gawler Show**  
The annual Gawler Show is a key tourism event and holds historical significance in Gawler as a much-loved event and the largest regional show held in South Australia. In 2021, due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on many local community events, the Gawler Show was postponed from the last weekend in August to November 20-21. The popular 'Horses in Action Program' normally held on Gawler Oval across the Show weekend was held separately on the original dates of the Gawler Show in August. This was to allow for show entrants to qualify for events/competitions such as the Royal Adelaide Show.

Despite the additional compliance required to ensure a safe and fun experience, the Show was well attended and enjoyed by those that came along, particularly after the cancellation of so many local community events during the pandemic. The success of the Show is a credit to the Gawler Show Society, its dedicated Committee and volunteers.

The Town of Gawler provides a meaningful and broad range of assistance to the Gawler Show Society across the planning, delivery and pack up for the annual event. The following Council teams provide significant levels of support to ensure that the Gawler Show is a success and keeps its title as the biggest Country Show in South Australia:

- Aquatic and Recreation Services
- Town Services – Civil, Horticulture and Town

Maintenance

- Community Services
- Environmental Services
- Regulatory Services
- Marketing and Communications
- Property
- Engineering Services

Council financially supports the annual delivery of the Gawler Show and is working closely with the Gawler Show Society on the preparations for the 2022 event.

**Local Government Reform Bill**  
The SA Parliament enacted the Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Bill 2021 on 17 June 2021. The Bill introduced multiple transitional changes to the Local Government Act 1999, which primarily focussed on legislative changes regarding the Council Member / Employee Behaviour Management framework and a Council's Annual Budget/Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plan / Asset Management Plans. The legislation introduced an independent Behavioural Standards Panel for the sector, which will assess and deal with complaints referred to it. The Panel will investigate complaints referred to it which allege misbehaviour, repeated misbehaviour, or serious misbehaviour of a Council Member. Each Council will need to adopt a Behavioural Management Policy, relating to the management of behaviour of members of the Council.

A key change to the legislation now sees each Council having to provide details of both its Long Term Financial Plan and Long Term Asset Management Plans, on a four year rotation basis, to the Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA), for the purpose of ESCOSA providing advice to each Council on the appropriateness of such



I-pad winners at the Gawler Show



strategic documents. The legislation mandates that the advice provided by ESCOSA on the strategic documents must be considered by the Council, and that the Council's response to the advice must be published in both its draft and adopted Annual Business Plan / Budget for each year until the next four year cycle. As part of the first tranche of reviews undertaken by ESCOSA, Council has been advised that its first reporting cycle to ESCOSA will be the 2024/25 financial year. Regular reports have been tabled to Council, such that it is kept suitably abreast and informed of the financial and operational consequences of the updated legislation.

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.

Council commits to tackle Housing Affordability and Homelessness

Town of Gawler is tackling the issue of housing affordability and homelessness through collaborations with some of South Australia's leading advocates in the sector. Council is taking active steps and engaging in productive discussions with other key industry groups, to create meaningful change for our community.



Housing Affordability and Homelessness Forum

Traffic and Parking

Council's Community Safety Officers have investigated 184 parking issues reported by residents, which is consistent with the 183 complaints received in 2021/2022. The team conducted regular proactive patrols in congested areas such as school zones and busy shopping areas. Three Private Parking Agreements were executed within the Commercial Lane District, Tod Street and the Murray Street Medical Centre, authorising Council staff to provide a service to private business, encouraging the turnover of parking spaces for customers.

Gawler Heritage Collection Management Plan 2020-2025

The Gawler Heritage Collection Committee and Cultural Heritage Centre staff have implemented a number of the key recommendations of the Plan. These included volunteer training, an insurance valuation for soe items within the Gawler Heritage Collection, identifying key themes for future exhibitions and the creation of a digitisation plan for the Local History Collection.

Council Motion Paves Way For Statewide Locker Initiative

At the Local Government Association of South Australia's Ordinary General Meeting in early April, Council put forward a motion which was ultimately carried. The passing of the LGA motion paves the way for future positive initiatives to commence in the fight against homelessness. The motion passed by Council is as follows.

Homelessness

- i. Supports and advocacy for the provision of lockers across all South Australian Local Government areas, to be made available to people experiencing homelessness and/or sleeping rough, to store their belongings in a safe

- and dignified way
- ii. Ensures support for people experiencing homelessness and rough sleepers by establishing a statewide working group including representatives from South Australian Councils, the LGA, SA Police, charity/ welfare groups and other relevant stakeholders

Gawler Heritage Collection Deaccessioning Plan

During the financial year Council staff identified three groups of items for possible deaccession from the Gawler Heritage Collection. After reviewing the items, the Gawler Heritage Collection Committee made recommendations to Council regarding the future status of these objects in the Collection.

Building Inspections

Council Building officers completed the following inspections during the year and included development approvals issued under the repealed Development Act and new PDI Act:

- 279 wall and roof framing inspection compared to 204 the previous year
- 8 commencement/footings inspections compared to 19 the previous year
- 55 swimming pools inspections compared to 78 the previous year
- 7 commercial inspections

Participatory Budget Community Engagement

Council embarked on a new engagement strategy with its community by providing an opportunity to vote on how it should allocate up to \$40,000 of funding within its 2022/23 Annual Budget. The Participatory Budgeting program had a two-phase approach to community participation. The first sought open feedback from the community regarding their ideas. The second phase asked the community to vote on a shortlist of Council endorsed projects. There are two projects which will be implemented for delivery in 2022-23, a drinking fountain near playgrounds at Clonlea Park and Apex Park and solar lights at Apex Park, Gawler.

Building Fire Safety Committee

Council's Building Fire Safety Committee held four meetings in 2021/22 (one virtual meeting due to COVID-19), above the mandatory three meetings required in accordance with the Building Fire Safety Committee terms of reference and PDI Act 2016. A total of 12 Building Fire Safety compliance inspections were conducted on commercial premises within Gawler, compared to 12 inspections the previous year.

Electronic Document and Records Management System

Council has a legislative requirement under the State Records Act 1997 to ensure that all official records are appropriately captured, stored, maintained, and eventually destroyed. In the 2021/22 financial year, over 120,000 records have been electronically captured into

Council's Electronic Document & Records Management System (EDRMS). Effective use of the EDRMS will preserve the knowledge of Council, realise cost savings on physical file storage and ensure efficient record retrieval abilities. This year, Records Management staff had a particular focus on boosting staff knowledge of records management obligations and to maximise use of the EDRMS not only for compliance but also for increased productivity. This has involved regular internal auditing and reporting, additional staff training and the monthly release of EDRMS functionality 'How-To' documentation.

Advocating for Gawler at ALGA National General Assembly

Mayor Karen Redman and CEO Henry Inat represented Town of Gawler at this year's National General Assembly (NGA), which was held from June 19-22 at the National Convention Centre. Town of Gawler has received unanimous support for a significant motion as detailed below during a major Canberra conference aimed at providing opportunities for Local Government to engage directly with their Federal counterparts on policy and advocate for their communities .

ALGA Motion for Formal Engagement on Legislated Market-based Greenhouse and Renewables Accounting

That this National General Assembly, building on the 2021 National General Assembly resolution and progress to date towards clear and transparent rules for renewable electricity, calls for formal engagement with the Federal Government and Department of Industry, Science Resources and Energy to accelerate reforms for nationally legislated market-based greenhouse accounting and rules for renewable electricity and carbon offsets to be established in Australia.

This reform will support all consumers (including councils, households and small to medium businesses) to have legitimate, fair and accessible solutions to reducing emissions with renewable electricity and offsetting their emissions.



Advocating for Gawler at the ALGA National General Assembly



Gawler



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