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Council plans to secure future of Gawler's historic buildings

The history and cultural heritage of 150 buildings in the Town of Gawler will be secured, as part of a Council proposal to protect their future.

Council has reached an agreement with the state's Minister for Planning that would allow 150 properties already deemed 'Contributory Items' to be considered Local Heritage Places because they:

- display historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area
- represent customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area
- have played an important part in the lives of local residents
- display aesthetic merit, design characteristics or construction techniques of significance to the local area
- are associated with a notable local personality or event
- are a notable landmark in the area

The proposal is contained in the Local Heritage Transition Development Plan Amendment (DPA) and was initiated in response to significant changes to Contributory Places in the impending State Government Planning and Design Code.

The DPA will go out for public consultation this week and if supported would require a number of Council-specific requirements to be met before any development or altering of Local Heritage Places is approved, ensuring Gawler's unique character remains.

Contributory Items are legacies of earlier approaches to development plan policy. They are identified as examples of particular forms of development, representing a defined period and its built-form character.

Under the new Planning and Design Code, Contributory Items will no longer exist. Based on the potential impact of this change, Council commissioned a comprehensive heritage survey of Gawler's 604 Contributory Items to see if any met the criteria for Local Heritage Places.

At its November 24 meeting last month, Council resolved to release the Development Plan Amendment for public consultation.

The consultation period begins Thursday 3 December 2020 and will run for a period of 12 weeks.

Subject to community feedback, at the end of the consultation period Council will endorse the plan and request the Minister transitions the 150 properties to their new Local Heritage Places status by early 2021.

"Gawler is unique in the high quality and extent of its built heritage," Mayor Karen Redman said.

"As custodians of this heritage, we have the responsibility and opportunity to preserve this legacy for generations to come by changing the status of relevant buildings to Local Heritage Places.

"Gawler's historic character is key in attracting new residents and businesses and has helped make our local area one of the fastest-growing regions in the state.

"We encourage Gawler residents and business owners to have their say during the consultation and play a part in protecting the town's heritage."

Council CEO Henry Inat said Gawler's built form must be preserved as part of the transition to the State Government's new Planning and Design Code.



"We believe the elevation of buildings to Local Heritage Places is vitally important to maintaining Gawler's historic character which makes it such a great place to live, work and visit," he said.

The Development Plan Amendment (DPA) report will be on public consultation from Thursday 3 December 2020 until Thursday 25 February 2021.

A copy of the DPA report will be available to view or purchase during normal office hours at the Town of Gawler Administration Centre, 43 High Street, Gawler East during the consultation period. Alternatively, the DPA report can be viewed on the internet at www.gawler.sa.gov.au.

A public workshop/drop-in session will be held on Wednesday 10 February 2021 by appointment at the Gawler Civic Centre, 89-91 Murray Street, Gawler.

Written submissions regarding the DPA should be submitted no later than 5pm on Thursday 25 February 2021. All submissions should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Town of Gawler, PO BOX 130, Gawler SA 5118 and should clearly indicate whether you wish to be heard in support of your submission at the public hearing. If you wish to lodge your submission electronically, please email it to council@gawler.sa.gov.au.

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday 16 March 2021 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Gawler Civic Centre, 89-91 Murray Street, Gawler, at which time interested persons may be heard in relation to the DPA and their submissions.

Copies of all submissions will be available for inspection at the Town of Gawler Administration Centre, 43 High Street, Gawler East, following the consultation period until the conclusion of the public hearing. Please note that due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, the format of the public hearing will not be determined until consultation is closed, in case the hearing is required to be conducted on-line rather than with a physical presence.

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The media may make contact with Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359