

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 - 2020

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

Front page photograph:
Willaston Oval Nature Playspace

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



It's my pleasure to present this annual report on what has been a very busy and at times, challenging year. Gawler is founded on its strong history that continues today. This is reflected in our historic neighbourhoods, character buildings, houses, and the magnificent Moreton Bay Fig trees that line Julian Terrace. It is critical for Council to ensure that it strikes the right balance between preserving this rich history and working towards safe-guarding its bright future. This past year has seen significant changes as it relates to our state planning system. Importantly Council has acted to protect its built heritage which is intrinsically linked to our sense of identity.

To this end, 150 items have been identified as worthy of upgrading to local heritage places as part of a development plan amendment. This significant work has had the support of the many landholders that are custodians of these important properties which reflects the pride Gawlerites have for our unique town.

Council has a role in providing and maintaining a safe and liveable environment for its community. In recognition of this role, Town of Gawler was the first Council in South Australia to declare a Climate Emergency which it did in August 2019. Council has started developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan with advocacy being a key consideration in the formulation of this Plan as State and Federal Government policy and legislation will have the biggest impact on community emission reductions. Council is showing leadership in climate action, investing in renewable energy and committing to a total phase out of single-use plastics at Council events and Council sponsored events in 2020. The greater Gawler area is estimated to increase in population from its current size

of more than 23,500 to up to 60,000 by 2040. Gawler currently provides facilities and services to an estimated 110,000 people living beyond the Town of Gawler council area. Council and the community are ready to formally embrace the communities living adjacent Gawler, and boundary reform is the most appropriate way to do this. In December 2019 Council submitted an application for boundary change to the Boundaries Commission for their assessment. In February 2020 Council was advised by the Commission that it could proceed to develop and submit a Stage 2 Proposal for Boundary Change which Council intends to lodge by December 2020.

2019/20 was a year disrupted by the biggest public health emergency in living memory. The Coronavirus pandemic caused unprecedented interruptions to Council's operations and the ways in which our community was able to connect and interact. In early April 2020, when we were in the initial stages of the social distancing and lockdown constraints as a result of the pandemic, Council provided immediate financial relief to our community by allowing ratepayers/businesses adversely financially affected by the crisis to defer their rates payments for 6 months. It also implemented a new program called Community Connect. The program provided information and connection to Gawler residents, in particular to elderly and vulnerable members of the community, who found themselves socially disconnected during the peak of the pandemic. In May 2020 the major financial impact of the pandemic was somewhat clearer and Council unanimously implemented a financial relief / economic stimulus package of up to \$3.4M which included Rate remissions, additional capital works programs that will, wherever possible, be designed towards local employment / local supplier outcomes and procurement efficiencies. These measures were included in Council's 2020/21 Draft Budget planned for adoption in August 2020. I am so proud to be the Mayor of an organisation and community that stepped up to the plate and responded in such a caring and compassionate way to this unprecedented event.

Some other highlights of the 2019/20 financial year were:
October 2019 – Nearly 500 entries were received to the Mayor's Christmas Card Competition in 2019. The winning entries from each category were professionally printed as my official Mayoral Christmas Cards, showcasing the wonderful and

talented children in Gawler.
November 2019 – The Gawler Civic Centre won multiple awards for excellence in both architecture and planning. The Centre won the Great Place Award and the Minister's Award at the 2019 Planning Institute of Australia's South Australian Awards for Planning Excellence.

December 2019 – Council adopted the Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan that provides for not only high quality sporting outdoor infrastructure, baseball and softball diamonds, soccer pitches (including an artificial pitch) and oval, but incorporates an indoor facility that can cater for active recreation activities such as gymnastics, calisthenics and dance sports, as well as baseball and softball batting practice.

February 2020 – Council completed the Elliot Goodger Memorial Park (Willaston Oval) Nature Playspace Project. This project was delivered with the assistance of the State Government's Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure through its Open Space Grant Program as a funding partner.

February 2020 – Council launched the "Gawler Connected Community" App that provides users with a one-stop shop for multiple transactions, whether those interactions are with Council or local businesses. It allows residents and ratepayers to be notified of planned road works, pay Council rates and read meeting agendas, while customers can book appointments or buy from local businesses.

April 2020 – Council commenced Phase 1 consultation on its Community Plan 2030+. The Community Plan is the Town of Gawler's highest level strategic document and a reflection of our collective future aspirations for Gawler. It is an evolving and living document, used at all levels of the organisation and importantly informed by ongoing community consultation. Council is due to complete the review of its Community Plan by December 2020.

I wish to thank all the Council Members, our hardworking Council Staff, and our amazing community volunteers for their ongoing dedication and commitment to our fantastic town. I trust you will find this Annual Report informative as it showcases the achievements of the Town of Gawler on behalf of our community during the past twelve months.

Mayor, Karen Redman

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



The 2019/20 year started as any other year. The budget was set, the administration was ready to deliver services and where and how we could not only meet community expectations but exceed those expectations.

The year would not end as any normal year. We had a fire at Hillier in December 2019 and then the COVID pandemic hit in March 2020.

Importantly, and not surprisingly, the organisation responded to all the pressures and challenges thrown at it during the year, proving its value in continuing to do business and adapt where it needed.

The Gawler community was not immune from the COVID pandemic's impacts and Council quickly responded to the crisis. Some activities were closed down to help stop the spread of the virus, while other activities were adapted to meet community needs. The Community Connect initiative was launched to help communicate not only how Council services were changing but also to provide an opportunity to inform the community of changes occurring with State and Federal government agency service arrangements. Importantly the initiative provided a way for residents to talk to someone and get help.

Notwithstanding the COVID crisis, Council's financial position continues to be sound. Council had in the past six year period achieved budget surplus positions which is a great credit to both Council Members and the administration. However, the pressures of being one of the fastest growing community's in the State, with the consequences of new growth and managing aging infrastructure, financial

stability was and continues to be an ongoing focus.

This financial year ended with a deficit of \$255,000. Council's Long Term Financial Plan which is updated every twelve months, details that Council will be in a deficit position for the next three financial years, with a balance or surplus position not again achieved until 2024/25. Every effort will be directed at bringing forward this position.

Council's key financial indicators are well placed, further demonstrating the Council's financial management credentials.

Council's debt levels had been reduced during the year by \$1.566m to \$18.678m. The Council has responsibility to manage on behalf of the community, assets valued at \$268m.

The consequences of being a growth Council relative to the financial pressures that result is well demonstrated by the soon to be completed Gawler East Link Road. This \$68m asset which is predominately funded by the State Government will cost the Council, as it has been determined by the State Government to be a local road, \$500,000 in depreciation each year.

Council received \$4.4m in infrastructure assets from new developments which over time need to be maintained which comes at a cost.

Council's iconic Civic Centre celebrated its first anniversary. The Centre attracted 100,000 people since its official opening in April 2019 which is a testament to the community's acceptance of this now much loved community facility that will serve future generations.

Council commenced to review the 2017 -2027 Community Plan. Formulation of the new Community Plan 2030+ was underway which will set the scene for many of Council's decisions over the coming decade.

The year had finished having completed and or significantly progressed the delivery on several significant projects to which we can be all very proud. The details of which are provided within this Report.

Equally important to the delivery of the individual projects referenced, is the continuation and improvement of service delivery to the community from all

departments within the organisation. The Council has the benefit of a workforce which is dedicated and hardworking.

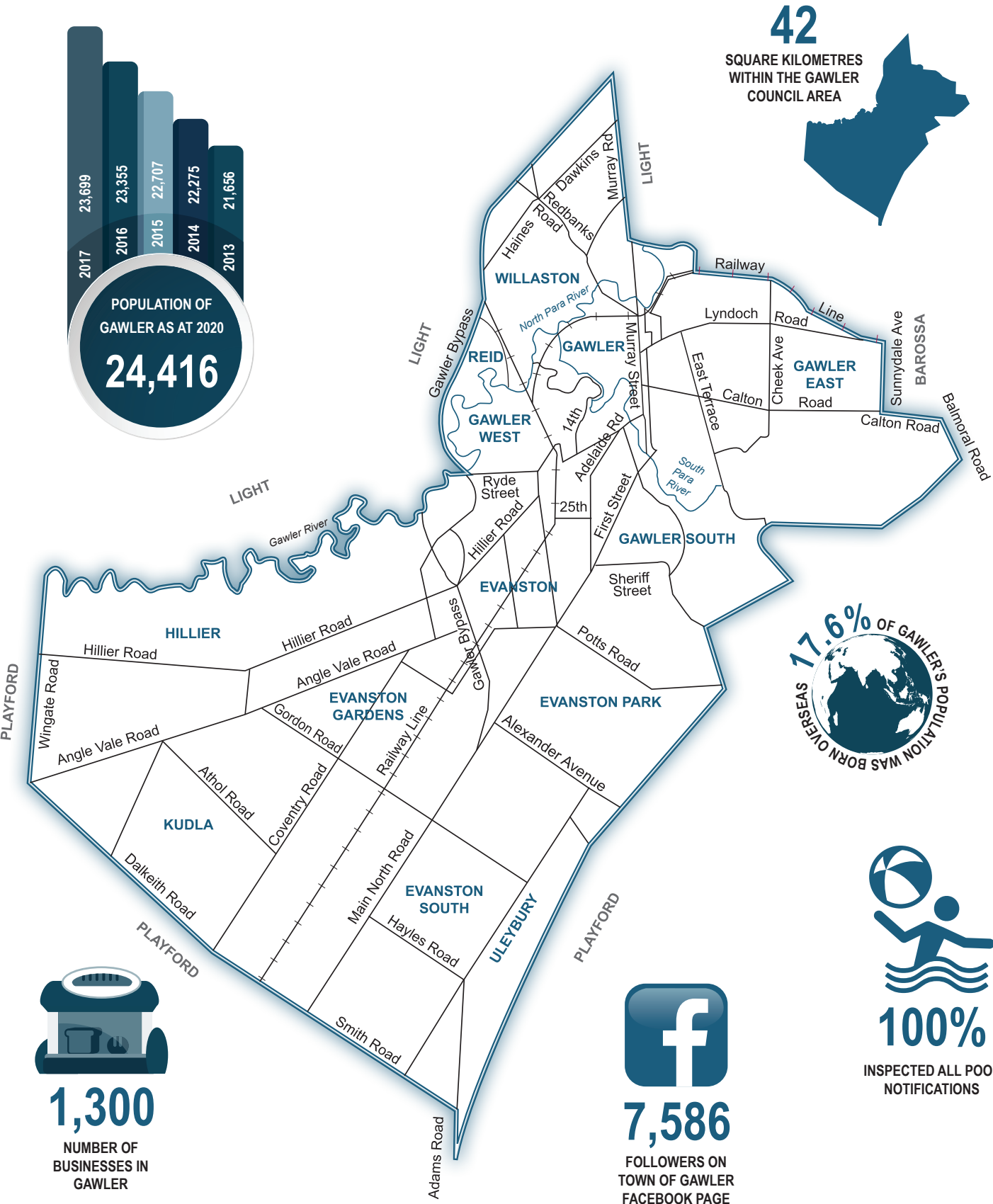
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Staff and Council Members for their commitment and team work in what has been a challenging but rewarding year.

I commend this Annual Report as a true and accurate record of the Council's achievements and financial management position.

CEO, Henry Inat.

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

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



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



Mayor Karen Redman



Cr Cody Davies



Cr Diane Fraser



Cr Kelvin Goldstone



Cr David Hughes



Cr Paul Koch



Cr Paul Little



Cr Brian Sambell



Cr Nathan Shanks



Cr Ian Tooley



Cr Jim Vallelonga

COUNCIL MEMBER ALLOWANCES 2019/2020

Council Member Allowances (July 2019 – June 2020)	
Mayor.....	\$70,793
Councillors.....	\$17,698

Audit Committee Independent Member Allowances

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

Council Development Assessment Panel Independent Member Allowances

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

COUNCIL MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

Council Members attended the following training and development activities during 2019/20.

- Conflict of Interest
- Public Interest Disclosure Act
- Confidential Items and Records Management

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 1:1,628 (17,914 electors). A comparative table below compares local and similar sized councils to Gawler, as at 28 February 2020.

	Town of Gawler	The Barossa Council	Light Regional Council	City of Murray Bridge	City of Whyalla	City of Alexandrina
Electors	17914	17947	10536	14625	15369	20830
Councillors	11	12	11	10	10	12
Ratio	1628	1495	957	1462	1536	1735

(Information
supplied by
Local
Government
Association)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS

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

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

1. **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.
2. **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.
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. **Council Members** – People can contact Members of the Council to discuss any issue relevant to Council.
5. **Public Open Forum** – is held at the commencement of each ordinary Council Meeting to encourage direct communication between the public and Council. There is a 20-minute open segment to make statements or ask questions. The time available is allocated to speakers on an equal basis with a maximum five minutes per speaker. Therefore, if five people want to participate, then a maximum of four minutes each will be allocated. The Mayor will ask for the names of people wishing to participate.
6. **Staff Members** – Members of the public can contact Council staff to discuss any issue relevant to Council.
7. Council also holds workshops which in the majority of circumstances are held in public.
9. **Zoom/YouTube** - From July onwards, each meeting from Council is live streamed via YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/TownofGawler>.

DECISION MAKING

The Local Government Act 1999 sets out the principal roles, functions and objective of Councils, with a principal role being ‘to act as a representative, informed and responsible decision maker in the interests of the community’.

To assist the elected Council to discharge its responsibilities to the community it relies on the CEO and senior staff to guide policy formation, undertake day to day management of the Council and put into place the decision made by Council.

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

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



Gawler Sport and Community Centre Floor and walls upgrade

COMMITTEE STRUCTURES

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.

Chairperson - Cr Cody Davies

Deputy Chairperson - Cr David Hughes

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

Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee

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

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

Council has delegated powers under certain Acts of

Legislation to this Committee.

Chairperson - Cr Paul Little

Deputy Chairperson -

Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Cody Davies, Cr Diane Fraser, Cr Kelvin Goldstone, Cr David Hughes, Cr Paul Koch, Cr Brian Sambell, Cr Nathan Shanks, Cr Ian Tooley, Cr Jim Vallelonga.

Chief Executive Officer Performance Management Panel

The CEO Performance Management Panel is established to assist the Council in the performance of the following functions of the Council by acting as a selection panel pursuant to section 98(4) of the Act in the event of a vacancy in the position of Chief Executive Officer. 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 review remuneration package of the Chief Executive Officer and make recommendations to the Panel.

Chairperson - Cr Brian Sambell

Deputy Members - Cr Paul Koch, Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Cody Davies, Cr David Hughes, Cr Kelvin Goldstone, Cr Nathan Shanks, Cr Ian Tooley, Cr Jim Vallelonga.

Gawler Heritage Collection Committee

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

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

Chairperson - Mrs Judy Gillett-Ferguson

Deputy Chairperson - Cr Paul Koch

Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Diane Fraser, Ms Debra Good, Ms Helen Hennessy, Ms Margaret Howse.

Gawler Youth Advisory Committee

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

OTHER COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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.

Chairperson - Angus Millikan

Deputy Chairperson - Brenna Carmichael

Members - Ashley Fisher, Darcie Hancock, Emilia Muriti, Grace Gallagher, Isaac Solomon, Jack Gill, Jade Hancock, Renee Chamberlain, Shay McDougall, Tallyn Treloar, Vinh Nguyen, Cr Cody Davies, Cr Nathan Shanks.

Audit Committee

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

The functions of the Audit Committee include:

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

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

Chairperson - Mr Peter Brass

Deputy Chairperson - Mr Peter Fairlie-Jones

Members - Mayor Karen Redman, Cr Diane Fraser, Cr Paul Koch, Cr Paul Little.

Council Assessment Panel

Councils play an important and significant role as a 'relevant authority' under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, assessing and making decisions about development applications which will impact on the character and amenity of the area.

Council delegates to the Council Assessment Panel under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* to exercise their development assessment powers and functions. The Panel comprises of four specialist, independent experts including the Presiding Member, as well as one Council Member.

Presiding Member - Dr Michael Llewellyn-Smith

Members - Mr Mike Canny (Oct 2018 - April 2020) (Mike passed away in April 2020 after a brave battle with cancer), Deputy Member Dr Susan Shannon, Mr Ross Bateup, Ms Fleur Bowden, Cr Kelvin Goldstone, Deputy Member Cr David Hughes.

Subsidiaries

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

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

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS CONSIDERED

Confidential Items considered

Confidential Items as at 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020	Numbers of Orders
Total number of orders made under section 90(2) of the Act in the financial year	30
Total number or orders made under subsection 91(7) in the financial year	23
Number of orders made in the financial year that expired, ceased to apply or were revoked during the financial year	9

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)	6
90(3)(b)(i) and (ii)	prejudice the commercial position of Council or be contrary to the public interest	10
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	9
90(3)(e)	matters affecting the security of the Council, members or employees of the council, or council property, or the safety of any person	
90(3)(f)	prejudice the maintenance of the law prevention, detection or investigation of criminal offence, or right to a fair trial	
90(3)(g)	not breach any law	
90(3)(h)	legal advice	6
90(3)(i)	information relating to actual litigation, or litigation that the Council or Council committee believe on reasonable grounds will take place	1
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	4
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



Australia Day Event

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

Original Meeting Date	Last Review Meeting Date	Subject	Nature of Confidentiality Section 90(3)	Status as at 30/6/2019
25/10/2016	26/5/2020	Gawler East Link Road Update	(a) (h)	Attachments retained
28/2/2017	26/5/2020	Local Government Association of SA Business Case for a Public Lighting Service	(c)	Report retained
26/9/2017	26/5/2020	Road Closure and Divestment of Land at Krieg Road, Evanston Park	(b)	Report retained
21/11/2017	26/5/2020	Gawler East Link Road Update Report	(b) (j)	Retained in full
5/12/2017	26/5/2020	Gawler East Link Road Update Report	(b) (j)	Report retained
7/2/2018	26/5/2020	Gawler East Link Road Update – Key Financial Elements	(j)	Report retained
27/2/2018	26/5/2020	Offer to Purchase Council Land Adjoining Smithfield Memorial Park, Evanston South	(b)	Retained in full
22/5/2018	26/5/2020	Divestment of Council Land, Evanston South	(b)	Retained in full
7/8/2018	26/5/2020	Woodvale Land Division 490/D023/16 (Variation To Stage 5) and Life Style Developments Land Division 490/D032/15	(b)	Retained in full
28/8/2018	26/5/2020	Business Innovation Hub Recommended Operator	(d) (k)	Attachments retained
26/2/2019	26/5/2020	Barossa Regional Procurement Group - Tender - Provision of New Surfacing Works and Resurfacing of Sealed Roads - BRPG 006-2018	(k)	Report retained
26/2/2019	26/5/2020	Electricity Procurement through Local Government Association Process	(k)	Report retained
18/3/2019	26/5/2020	Chief Executive Officer Performance Management Review Update	(a)	Report retained
26/3/2019	26/5/2020	Springwood Traffic Interventions and Community Infrastructure Deed Update	(b) (d) (h)	Retained in full
23/4/2019	26/5/2020	Woodvale Development Stage 5 Variation Land Division Application 490/D023/16	(b) (d)	Retained in full
23/4/2019	26/5/2020	Krieg Road Evanston Park Road Closure - Value of Land	(b)	Retained in full
23/4/2019	26/5/2020	Divestment of Council Land, Smith Road and Main North Road, Evanston South	(b)	Retained in full
23/7/2019	26/5/2020	Proposed Offer of Payment into Car Parking Fund	(b) (h)	Attachments retained
23/7/2019	26/5/2020	Woodvale Development Stage 5 Variation Land Division Application 490/D023/16	(b)	Retained in full
31/7/2019	26/5/2020	Chief Executive Officer Performance Management Review Update	(a)	Report retained
27/8/2019	26/5/2020	Divestment of Council Land - Corner of Main North Road and Smith Road Evanston South	(b) (h)	Minutes & report retained

26/11/2019	26/5/2020	Concordia Precinct Authority - Business Case lodged with Minister	(j)	Retained in full
17/12/2019	26/5/2020	Execution of Deed of Settlement and Release for Woodvale (Stage 5) Infrastructure Contribution	(b)	Retained in full
17/12/2019	26/5/2020	Concordia Precinct Authority - Business Case - Council Response	(j)	Retained in full
28/1/2020	26/5/2020	Walker Place Redevelopment Project - Construction Purchase Recommendation and Project Update	(k)	Report retained
28/1/2020	26/5/2020	Business Innovation Hub Management Agreement Update	(d) (h)	Retained in full
25/2/2020	26/5/2020	Krieg Road Property Divestment	(a) (d)	Retained in full
7/4/2020		Stimulus Funding - Karbeethan Reserve Masterplan	(b)	Retained in full
7/4/2020		Chief Executive Officer Performance Management Review Update	(a)	Retained in full
14/4/2020		Springwood State Commission Assessment Panel Decision Legal Options	(b) (h)	Retained in full
14/4/2020		Springwood Traffic Interventions and Community Infrastructure Deed	(b) (d)	Retained in full
14/4/2020		Lifestyle Development Pty Ltd Gawler East Infrastructure Deed Update report	(b) (d)	Retained in full
14/4/2020		Commissioner of Highways Traffic Interventions and Community Infrastructure Deed Update	(b) (d)	Retained in full
14/4/2020		108 Eckerman Avenue -Gawler East Infrastructure Deed	(b) (d)	Retained in full
26/5/2020		Business Innovation Hub Management Agreement Update	(d)	Retained in full
26/5/2020		Recommendations from CEO Performance Management Panel Meeting held on 7 April 2020	(a)	Retained in full
16/6/2020		Council Response to Resolution to Item 11.8 at the 28 April 2020 (2020:04:COU131)	(a) (h)	Retained in full



Adelaide Road Footpath

Role of the Chief Executive Officer

Role of Council

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

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

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

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

Community Engagement

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

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

The principles underpinning this Policy are:

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

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

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

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

Risk Management

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

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

Auditor Remuneration

Remuneration paid to Council's auditors, Dean Newbery and Partners (outgoing) and Galpins (incoming), for work performed in the 2019/20 financial year was \$40,435.

Senior Executive Officers Annual Remuneration

Gawler Council’s Executive Group consisted of the Chief Executive Officer and five Managers each receiving a package of base salary in the range of \$160,745.63 to \$268,643 inclusive of Superannuation contributions and may also include allowances or benefits such as use of a private motor vehicle and provision of telecommunications equipment and salary sacrifice contributions. The register of employee remuneration and benefits is available for inspection upon request at the Administration Centre.

Internal Review of Council Decisions (Section 270)

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

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

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

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

Freedom of Information

Thirteen Freedom of Information applications were received, two were withdrawn, two were closed and eight were determined by Council under the Local Government Freedom of Information Act in the twelve months to 30 June 2019.

Inquiries or requests for information under the Act should be forwarded to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Town of Gawler
PO Box 130
Gawler SA 5118

Freedom of Information Statement

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

Access to Council Documents

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

Registers

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

Book, By Laws, Community Land, Community Management Plan Delegations, Development Applications, Dogs, Parking Controls and Public Roads.

Codes and Policies

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

Community Land and Council Facilities

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

A register of community land is available for inspection on Council’s website.

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.



Citizenship Ceremony

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



Community Plan 2017-2027



Gawler Fringe

Community Plan 2017 - 2027

The Gawler Community Plan 2017-2027 is Council’s highest level strategic document and a reflection of the communities 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 ‘A 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.

The Community Plan acknowledges Identity, Growth, Community, Environment and Leadership as key pillars of performance. Council commenced a review of Community Plan 2017-2027 in 2019 with a new Community Plan 2030+ due for adoption by Council in December 2020.

Corporate Plan 2014 - 2018

While the community’s vision for Council is reflected in the Gawler Community Plan 2017– 2027 and used to guide ‘what’ Council needs do over the next decade in order the achieve this vision, the Corporate Plan outlines ‘how’ Council as an organisation will achieve this vision.

The Corporate Plan 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. The Corporate Plan is currently under development and due for completion in December 2020.

Annual Business Plans / Budget

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

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

Key financial management elements are:

- Adoption of an Annual Budget / Business Plan (Section 123 of the Act)
- Annual review of the Long Term Financial Plan (Section 122(4) of the Act)
- Periodic reviews of the Annual Budget / Business Plan (Section 123(13) of the Act)
- Preparation of Annual Financial Statements (Section 127 of the Act)
- Internal Control policies (Section 125 of the Act).

In addition to the legislative requirements mentioned above, Council also incorporates the following activities within its financial governance framework:

- Monthly Finance Reports are tabled to Council, outside of the periodic (quarterly) reviews of the Annual Budget / Business Plan
- A Council Comparative Data Report, which compares the financial performance of Gawler Council against similar Councils and is tabled to Council on an annual basis.

Long Term Financial Plan

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

Key elements of the annual review process include:

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

Council achieved consecutive operating surpluses for six years from 2013/14 to 2018/19, and realised a small operating deficit of \$255,000 (heavily informed by financial consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic) for the reporting period.

Council’s operating performance continues to be significantly impacted from the challenges of major growth, as influenced and informed by new depreciation and maintenance costs directly derived from new and/or upgraded assets. In this regard, the recently completed \$65m Gawler East Link Road is expected to result in new annual depreciation expense in the order of \$500,000 p.a., which will immediately impact on Council’s ability

to return to an operating surplus position in the short to medium term.

The Long Term Financial Plan currently forecasts minor operating deficits for the next four years.

- **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%.

In this context, the current Long Term Financial Plan projects the Net Financial Liabilities Ratio to be maintained between approximately 60-100% over the life of the Plan. The Plan currently forecasts the ratio peaking at 97% in the 2026/27 financial year, which is informed by the estimated timing of future major capital investments (the future timing of such works is reviewed on an annual basis in consideration of Council’s revised long-term financial forecasts).

Ongoing financial discipline will need to be maintained by the Council to ensure that the ratio result is maintained within the policy threshold, whilst at the same time maintaining a nominal level of borrowing capacity should the need arise for any unforeseen or emergency events.

- **Asset Management Funding** - Council’s Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan outlines 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 in the Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan is incorporated within the Long Term Financial Plan.

The Asset Management Plans will be subject to periodic review during the 2020/21 financial year, which will then naturally inform the annual review of the Long Term Financial Plan.

Competitive Tendering

Council’s Procurement Policy defines the methods by which Council can acquire goods and services and sets out key principles to ensure probity, equity, transparency and accountability in its purchasing processes and practices. The policy is available for inspection at Council’s Principal Office or on the website.

This year Council advertised 8 tenders through the SA Tenders and Contracts website. Gawler Council, as part of the Barossa Regional Procurement Group, also tendered for the provision of security services, playground audits and general repairs and building maintenance on a regional basis. The Barossa Regional Procurement Group is an alliance

between the Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Mid-Murray Council, Light Regional Council and the Adelaide Plains Council (formerly the District Council of Mallala). The aim of the Group is to improve internal procurement practices, create efficiencies and reduce the burden on suppliers through standardisation of procurement documentation and deliver potential cost savings for all member Councils.

The Barossa Regional Procurement Group achieved these aims through the tender process of five tenders this financial year.

National Competition Policy

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

Council commenced operations at the Gawler Civic Centre in February 2019. Council is directly responsible for managing venue hire for meetings and functions within the Gawler Civic Centre and has set commercial hire rates for this purpose based on regional benchmarking. The Institute Hall also hosts live performance activity on a cost recovery basis via ticket sales. Both of these business operations are being conducted in accordance with the National Competition Policy.

Two other commercial businesses are operating from the Gawler Civic Centre namely Niina Marni Kadlitiya (Social Enterprise Café) and the Business Innovation Hub. Council has entered into management agreements with private operators for these businesses being Red Centre Enterprises and Andrew Morris respectively. These management agreements provide for compliance with the National Competition Policy.

Council did not receive any complaints alleging a breach



Barossa Regional Procurement Group

of competitive neutrality during this period.

Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans

Council's Infrastructure and Asset Management Plans cover all assets; property, infrastructure, plant and equipment as described in Council's Asset Register. The purpose of the Plans is to ensure the long-term, sustainable management of Council's assets appropriate to community expectations and Council needs.

The Plan was updated this financial year in consideration of Council's Community Plan, Development Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Annual Business Plan. The Plans are summarised annually in the Long Term Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan (IAMP) which identifies capital investment funding required, over a ten year horizon currently totalling approximately \$65M.

This funding is relative to the replacement/renewal of Council's \$300m+ stock of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets and supports new projects being delivered each year. In this regard, the funding required over the ten year horizon caters for the replacement/ renewal of assets at the end of their identified useful or economic lives – with such lives, in turn, informed by either Council's various service standards, past experience, or accepted industry guidelines / standards.

The IAMP also charts and informs identified potential investment in new/ upgraded assets. Such investment, which is more of a 'discretionary' nature when compared to the replacement/ renewal of existing assets, is informed by either external grant funding secured (recent examples being funding secured for the Murray Street Stage 7 and Walker Place precinct redevelopments).

The Plan is also informed by various infrastructure deeds with developers, various independent management plans, (e.g. the Gawler Open Space Sport and Recreation Plan, Walking and Cycling Plan), or Council's own longer term aspirations.

The Town of Gawler
Community Plan 2017-2027 presents five key Strategic Goals:

In 2016/17 a review of the Community Plan 2014-2024 was undertaken to ensure it reflected current community aspirations. The review involved engagement with elected Council Members, staff and the wider community and the revised Plan was adopted by Council in October.



OUR IDENTITY

GOAL 1:

A Uniquely Identifiable Township



OUR GROWTH

GOAL 2:

Managed and Sustainable Growth



OUR COMMUNITY

GOAL 3:

A Healthy, Active, Safe, Engaged Community



OUR ENVIRONMENT

GOAL 4:

To Respect and Nurture the Environment



OUR LEADERSHIP

GOAL 5:

A Strong, Vibrant Community

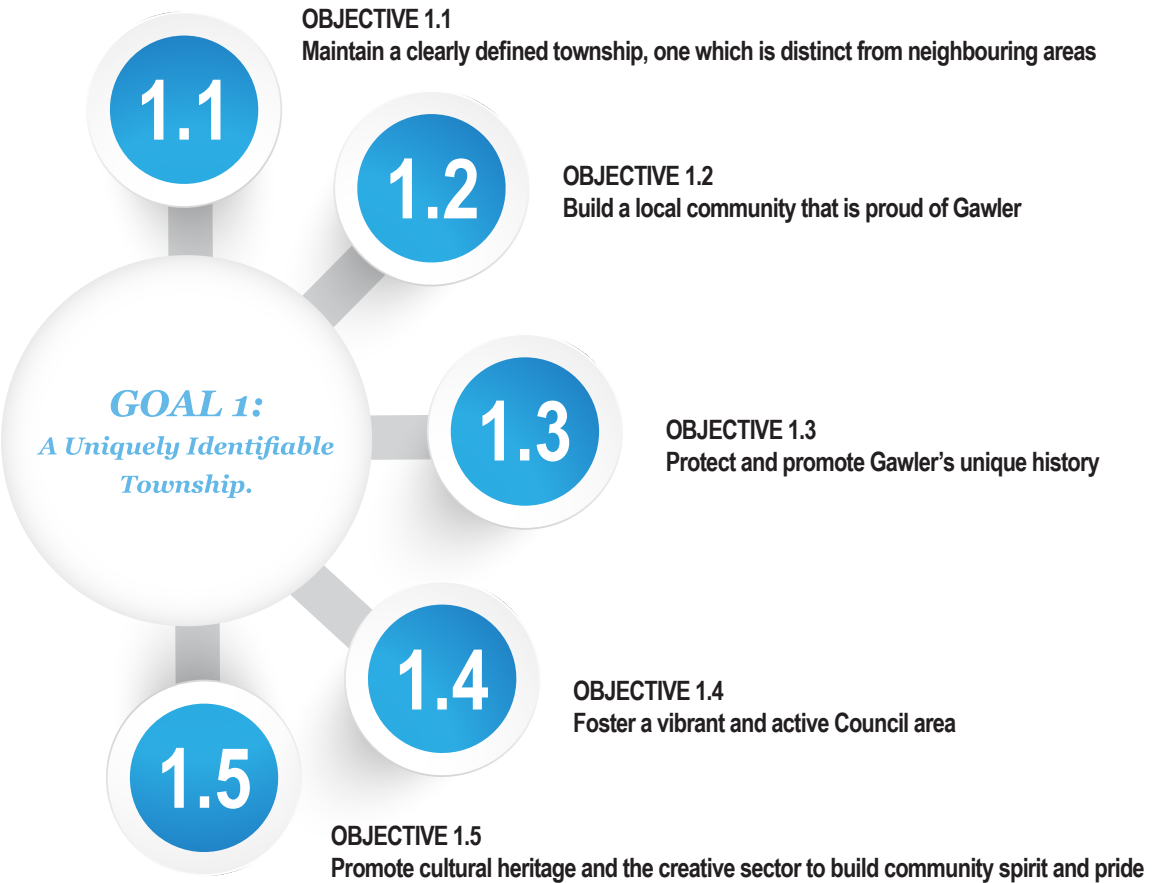
Each of the Goals provides a reference in Council's daily operations and service delivery outcomes. These outcome areas, associated goals, objectives and strategies have formed a critical reference point in reporting achievements this year.

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



Youth Sportsperson Awards

OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements



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** Maintain a clearly defined township, one which is distinct from neighbouring areas
- Boundary Reform
 - Rural Land Use and Infrastructure Investigation and the Rural Areas Development Plan Amendment

- OBJECTIVE 1.2** Build a local community that is proud of Gawler
- Community Grants 2019/20
 - External Grants Program
 - Community Engagement
 - ANZAC Day
 - Marketing and Communications
 - Beautification Plan
 - Unsightly Premises

- OBJECTIVE 1.3** Protect and promote Gawler's unique history
- Gawler Civic Centre
 - 1. Gawler Heritage Centre
 - 2. Social Enterprise Café
 - 3. Youth Space
 - 4. Gawler Club Inc.
 - Walker Place Redevelopment
 - Piles, Kerbing and Finnis St Intersection Upgrade
 - Willaston Cemetery Conservation and Management Plan
 - Heritage Collection Management and Action Plan

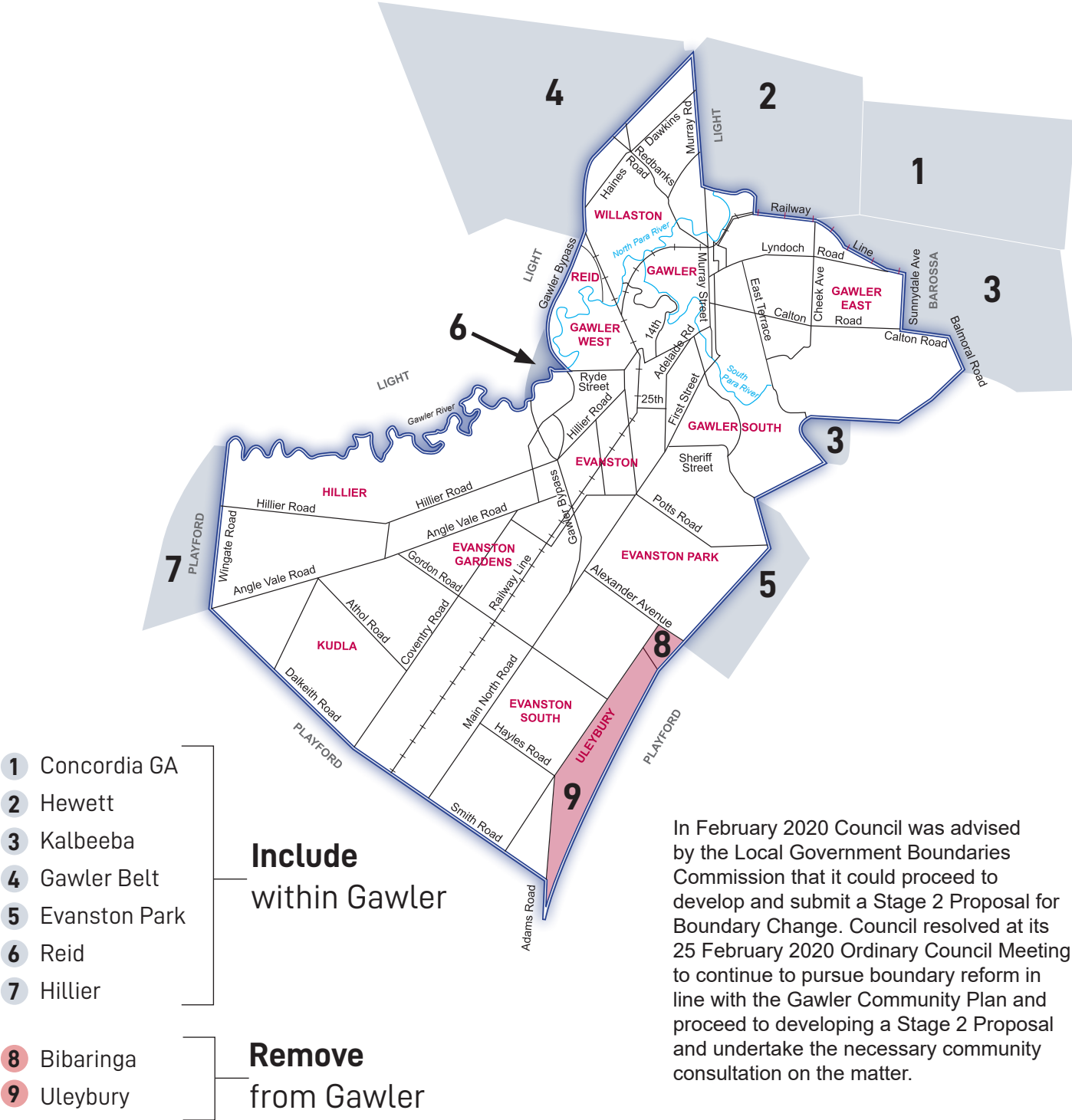
- OBJECTIVE 1.4** Foster a vibrant and active filled Council area
- National Youth Week 2020
 - Gawler Fringe
 - YMCA Skate Park Event
- OBJECTIVE 1.5** Promote cultural heritage and the creative sector to build community spirit and pride
- Arts and Culture Strategy
 - Gawler Civic Centre
 - 1. Institute Event Spaces and Town Hall Meeting Rooms

OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

Boundary Reform
A change to state government legislation in January 2019 means Council is now able to consider and seek boundary realignment to better meet the needs of our whole community. Under this new legislation Council can apply to an independent body, being the South Australian Boundaries Commission (the Commission), to assess and investigate its proposal for boundary change.

The new legislation provides Council with an important opportunity to put forward a case on behalf of our community so we can continue to provide services and infrastructure to our residents, businesses, visitors and community into the future. There are strong economic, social and environmental reasons for presenting a submission to the SA Boundaries Commission which is why Council commenced investigations in this regard.

Town of Gawler submitted a Stage 1 Proposal for Boundary Change to the South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission in December 2019. The following Council boundary adjustments formed the basis of Council's Stage 1 Proposal.



OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

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

A Statement of Intent, pursuant to section 25(1) of the Development Act 1993, was lodged with the Minister for Planning on 18 May 2018 seeking his agreement to commence a Development Plan Amendment involving the Rural Zone. In response to this request, the Minister for Planning stated that he was unable to support the Development Plan Amendment in its current format and encouraged Council to pursue this change to land use policy via a Planning and Design Code Amendment, once the new system has been implemented. As a result, Council resolved to place the Development Plan Amendment on hold pending the implementation of the State Government's Planning and Design Code on 1 July 2020. The State Government's Planning and Design Code has since been delayed, with implementation now anticipated for early 2021.

Community Grants

The Community Grants encourage and support a range of projects, events and activities occurring within the Town of Gawler. Each year Council contributes \$15,000 towards the Community Grants Program. The grants encourage community development by supporting a range of initiatives in areas such as health, recreation and sport, community development, arts and culture, history, and the environment. Eligible groups, organisations and individuals are invited to apply for up to \$1,000 to assist with community focused initiatives that benefit the Gawler community. In the 2019/20 Grants Round a total of 37 applications were received and 22 grants were allocated to a variety of initiatives including:

Organisation	Project	Amount
UCare Gawler	Swags for Homeless	\$500
Gawler East Neighbourhood Watch Area 111	Kerbside Numbering	\$700
Gawler Bowling Club	Portable Room Divider	\$1,000
Sing Australia Gawler	Resources and Equipment	\$500
Gawler Environment Centre	Eco Coffin Club	\$800
Eldercare Residential Aged Care Facility	Little Elders Playgroup Equipment	\$500
Willo's Men's Shed	Safety Equipment	\$975
Gawler BMX Club	Barrel Gate Upgrade	\$1,000
Gawler Little Athletics Club	Equipment Replacement	\$868
Martin Johnson	Gawler's MAP (Music and Poetry)	\$420
Gawler Central Sporting Club (Football Division)	Goal Post Padding Upgrade	\$1,000
Gawler Petanque Club	Piste Refresh	\$400
Northern Adelaide Domestic Violence Service	Domestic Violence Wellbeing Room	\$350
North Vikings Inline Hockey Club	Barrier Upgrade	\$360
The Salvation Army Riverside Gawler	Indoor Playhouse and Play Equipment	\$350
Rotary Club of Gawler	Gawler Hospital TV Replacement	\$500
Tod Street Tennis Club	Defibrillator Instalment	\$1,000
Gawler Care and Share Group	Safe and Accessible Seating Project	\$900
Rotary Club of Gawler Light	Community Accessible AED	\$1,000
Transition Gawler	Towards a Climate Ready Gawler (film screening)	\$500
Adelaide Plains Poets	Gawler and Adelaide Plains Festival of Words	\$787
Gawler Broadcasting	Gawler Oral History Expansion and Activation	\$592



Community Grants recipients North Vikings Inline Hockey Club and Transition Gawler, both pictured with Mayor Redman

OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

External Grants Program

Council continues to be proactive in seeking external funding to assist the delivery of its programs, services and infrastructure. This year, Council was successful in obtaining \$1,725,814 in project related grant funding as outlined in the table below:

Grant	Project	Amount
Be Connected - Building Digital Skills Grant	Be Connected Digital Literacy Program	\$2,500
Be Connected – Digital Devices Grant	Digital Device for Loan to Isolating Seniors	\$5,000
Be Connected - Get Online Week Event Grant	Make the Most of the Internet – Device and Program	\$1,500
Regional Growth Fund – (State)	Greater Adelaide Cycleway Barossa, Light and Lower North Cycle Tourism Project (joint application with Barossa)	\$678,269
State Bicycle Fund	Adelaide Road Shared Use Path	\$50,000
Water Sustainability Grant	Coleman Parade Low Flow Channel Project	\$17,500
Special Local Roads	Murray Street Stage 7 Upgrade	\$854,000
Black Spot Funding	Lyndoch Road, High Street Intersection Upgrade	\$115,000
Communities Environment Program	Improve Backyard Habitats	\$4,545
TOTAL		\$1,728,314

Pending Grant Applications

- Murray Street Stage 7 - Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program – Australian Government - \$463,000
- Gawler Careers Connect Program – National Careers Institute Partnership Grant Round 1 – Australian Government - \$324,993

Unightly Premises

Council's Community Safety Officers (CSO's) are the first port of call in assessing complaints relating to unsightly conditions on premises. As Authorised Officers under the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016, CSO's have the legislated authority to undertake a subjective assessment to establish if the property is creating any adverse impact on the amenity value of an area. CSO's will refer to Schedule 1 of the Act to assist in determining if unsightly conditions exist, and if a matter is considered serious enough, can issue the owner and or occupier with a Nuisance Abatement Notice and/or an on-the-spot-fine. Council staff initially approach unsightly property investigations by engaging with the owner/occupier and identifying any underlying issues that may be causing the problem. In the first instance, owners/occupiers are educated regarding their obligations under the Act and encouraged to make an agreement about how they intend to rectify the issues. As causal factors around unsightly premises and hoarding can often be attributed to mental health issues, injuries and financial difficulties, CSO's tend to pursue enforcement action only as a last resort, when owners/occupiers fail to make an effort to comply with the Act. During the 19/20 financial year, Council received 34 unsightly property complaints, showing a reduction from the 18/19 year when 71 reports were lodged with Council.

Gawler Civic Centre

In April 2020, the Gawler Civic Centre celebrated its first anniversary since re-opening following the official launch of its refurbishment. Since the official launch almost 100,000 people have come through the main entrances to visit the various areas within the Centre.

Gawler Cultural Heritage Centre

The Cultural Heritage Gallery concluded its inaugural “Into the

Light” Exhibition, designed by Ms Denise Schumann OAM. We were proud to share this Exhibition with a total of 12,236 local, interstate and international visitors and received very positive feedback. The Heritage Research Centre was open to the public for 12 hours per week as well as phone and e-mail contact to attend to the increasing number of family and local history enquiries. Council also launched it's ‘e-hive’ program – an online cloud based catalogue system which enables the community to view over 850 (and growing) items of the Gawler Heritage Collection.

Social Enterprise Café

Although temporarily closing in March 2020 due to COVID-19, Niina Mami Kadlitiya Café contributed to the atmosphere and engagement within the Civic Centre by operating as a public café, providing after hours catering and event support servicing business workshops, corporate meetings and community events across the year. The Café also participated in a number of engaging education activities throughout the year, particularly during the month of scheduled Fringe activities. The café also sought to implement work and training options with various partners.

Youth Space

The Gawler Youth Space has provided a safe space for many young people to attend free term programs or low/ subsidised cost school holiday programs. The space regularly hosts meetings with child and youth providers including the Child Friendly Group and the Gawler and District Youth Workers Network. In the 2019 calendar year 116 young people became members of the Youth Space. Youth Space Members are those that regularly attend term programs. At the end of June 2020 the current membership of the Youth Space was 55. Considering the Coronavirus COVID-19 implications and changes to programs this is a solid number.

OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

Gawler Club Inc. The Gawler Club continue to utilise their redeveloped space in the Town Hall Lower Ground Floor of the building, after moving back in after the redevelopment (from 28 March 2019). They also closed for the COVID-19 pandemic from 26 March and reopened on 8 July 2020. During the year they hosted regular monthly, Thursday night Social Nights for existing and new members.

Community Engagement

The following are community engagement initiatives undertaken by Council in 2019/2020:

- Gawler Community Plan 2030+
- Willaston Local Area Traffic Management
- Draft Animal Management Plan 2019 - 2024
- Gawler Caravan Park – Lease Extension Request
- Apex Park Toilet Development and Community Artwork
- Expressions of Interest – Gawler Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group
- Road Closure – Uniformed Portion of Knight Street, Willaston
- Road Closure – Walkway between Coombe Street and Allwood Drive, Gawler East
- Code of Practice for Access to Council and Committees Meetings and Council Documents
- Draft Gawler & Surrounds Stormwater Management Plan
- Updated Draft Tourism Plan 2019 - 2024
- Customer Service Satisfaction Survey
- Gawler Fringe - Business Survey
- 2019 By-law Review (Cats and Dogs)
- New Lease Proposal (Fasta Pasta)

ANZAC Day

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

Marketing and Communications

Council continues to utilise a variety of print and online communication channels to connect with residents. Social Media pages and the Town of Gawler website provide the most current information and provide the quickest engagement opportunity for the wider Gawler community. Council now has eight Facebook pages that deliver relevant information to a growing follower base of interested community. Each page reaches a large number of our community who are interested in various business functions at the Town of Gawler. The table below shows the number of followers and reach of our Facebook pages:

Facebook Page (insights as at 30 June 2020)	Followers	Average Organic Post Reach	Page Reach Peak	Top % Fan Age Group
Town of Gawler	7,586	4,293	19,003	Women 35-44 yrs (22%)
Gawler Aquatic Centre	3,925	740	8,876	Women 35-44 yrs (32%)
Gawler Sport and Community Centre	3,362	667	8,702	Women 35-44 yrs (38%)
Gawler Youth	2,667	438	9,150	Women 35-44 yrs (27%)
Gawler Public Library	1,534	334	1,782	Women 35-44 yrs (33%)
Gawler Civic Centre	842	295	2,847	Women 35-44 yrs (27%)
Gawler Visitor Information Centre	751	135	932	Women 35-44 yrs (24%)
Gawler Cultural Heritage Centre	259	266	4,795	Women 35-44 yrs (26%)

The table to the right shows the top ten pages of the Town of Gawler Website and the number of Pageviews and Unique Pageviews that were registered over the past year:

- Pageviews – total number of pages viewed. Repeated views of a single page are counted.
- Unique Pageviews – the number of sessions during which the specified page was viewed at least once. A unique pageview is counted for each page URL + page Title combination

Webpage	Pageviews	Unique Pageviews
Town of Gawler – all pages	309,566	241,929
Home Page	39,557	29,739
Careers	12,918	9,867
Gawler Aquatic Centre	9,360	7,918
Local Services	6,779	5,508
Gawler Sport & Community Centre	5,158	3,970
Council Meetings	4,708	3,846
Waste and Recycling Services	4,020	3,452
Library	3,626	2,799
Contact Us	3,523	3,026
Parks and Playgrounds	3,384	2,743

OUR IDENTITY - Key Achievements

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

The four Institute Event Spaces – James Martin Room, Institute Hall, Seating Gallery and Council Chambers – hosted a number of community and corporate events along with a variety of Council programs, shows, events, exhibitions and meetings. The ten (10) Town Hall Meeting Rooms hosted a number of regular community groups and some corporate hirers. They also provided Council an important asset to utilise during the COVID-19 pandemic, with staff relocations to the Civic Centre to assist with workforce splitting and physical distancing measures. This, along with other Council facilities, allowed staff to continue to operate at work, where possible, in a COVID-Safe working environment.

Community and corporate hirers across all Civic Centre venues included: Dept.of Education, RDA, GRFMA, Christadelphians, Dance Crew SA, Disability Royal Commission, Trinity College, NDS, My Supports, Brace Education, Capacity Australia, DPTI, Viridian Advisory, Feros Care, Distinctive Training Services, Move Exercise Physiology, Dementia and Alzheimers Australia, The Growing Space. Internal council bookings included: Youth School Holiday workshops, NAIDOC Nunga luncheon, Bang Science Discovery Club, Business Innovation Hub workshops and training sessions, Crocodile Rocket show, LAN parties, Citizenship Ceremonies, Mr Snot Bottom show, Adelaide Songs show, Peter Fizzesimmons Book talk, The Desirables show, Beautiful Australia show and various Council Committees and Meetings.

Regular community group’s utilising our Town Hall Meeting Rooms include: JP services, Lutheran Community Care Financial Counselling, Northern Volunteering SA, Barossa Christadelphians and Friends of the Gawler Library.

Our shows/events highlights (before COVID-19 closure in March) included:

- Hosting two evening Cabaret Shows (Crocodile Rocket & The Desirables)
- Hosting two children’s Theatre shows (Mr Snot

- Bottom & Beautiful Australia)
- Hosting one morning melody shows (Adelaide Songs)
- Disability Royal Commission Community Forum (80+ people)
- Peter Fitzsimmons (James Cook) book talk (100+ people)
- 2020 Gawler Fringe Shows/Events
- Hosting NAIDOC Gawler Nunga Luncheon (100+ people)

Walker Place Redevelopment

The Walker Place Redevelopment commenced construction and was largely completed in 2019/20. The redevelopment is part of the Walker Place Gawler Central Urban Precinct Project which was the recipient of \$1,006,361 from the State Government’s Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure’s Places for People grant scheme. Construction commenced in February 2020 and works were substantially completed by June 2020. Throughout the construction there was a focus on supporting our local businesses, incorporating methods to reduce construction impacts to them and employing locals. The design of the new Walker Place Plaza was completed by Wax Design and Tonkin Consulting, delivering on the vision of creating a space that was not simply a retail strip, but rather, a central town point for place making and community activities. The one-way thoroughfare for traffic and car-parking has been maintained which was a key deliverable through the design consultation process, but the space also creates a calming spot in the centre of our town to sit, relax, or have your interest piqued in Gawler’s rich history through one of the Kurna and historical quotes on display.

The new Walker Place can be easily converted in a sparkling open public space for events such as our annual Fringe and other pop-up events, including evening events under the new centenary lighting. A key outcome from the investment in Walker Place is the opportunity to drive growth for existing businesses through attraction to this high-quality public realm and stimulate economic redevelopment of properties in the local area.



Walker Place

OUR GROWTH - Key Achievements



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

- OBJECTIVE 2.1** Physical and social infrastructure to service our growing population and economy
- Gawler East Link Road
 - Main North Road/Tulloch Road Intersection Upgrade
 - Gawler East Separate Rate
 - Southern Urban Areas
 - Murray Street Upgrade Stage 6
 - Annual Road Reseal and Patch Repair Programs
 - Kerb and Gutter Construction and Renewal
 - Main North Road Stage 3
 - Installation of Disability and Ramp Improvement Program
 - Bus Stop Improvement Program
 - Unsealed Rural Road Re-sheeting
 - Willaston Cemetery Conservation and Management Plan
 - Upgrade Rural Road Intersection Aprons
 - Renew Footpath Program
 - Reconstruction Shoulders of Rural Roads Safety Program

- Stormwater Drainage Improvement Works
 - Street and Park Furniture Renewals
 - Gawler Terraces – Tonkin Drainage Study
- OBJECTIVE 2.2** Growth to be sustainable and respectful of cultural and built heritage
- Heritage Advisory Services
 - Heritage Grant Scheme
 - Development Assessment Services
 - Building Inspections
- OBJECTIVE 2.3** The local environment to be respected
- Renew Fencing and Bollard Program
 - Replace Irrigation Systems Program
 - SA Power Networks Amenity Pruning under Powerlines - Trial Outcomes

- OBJECTIVE 2.4** Manage growth through the real connection of people and places
- New Footpath Program
 - Barnet Road School Emu Crossings
 - Disability Infrastructure Review
 - Gawler Oval Carpark Design
- OBJECTIVE 2.5** 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
 - Business Innovation Hub
 - SA Youth Week 2020

OUR GROWTH - Key Achievements

Gawler East Link Road
Detailed design of the 5.5 km long Gawler East Link Road was completed by DPTI and road construction work continued with the civil contractor Bardavcol. Whilst the road works commenced along the alignment, construction of a 90 metre long bridge also commenced spanning the full width of the South Para River upstream of Dead Mans Pass, which is the largest bridge asset to be vested in the Town of Gawler.

Construction of a Bebo-Arch bridge also commenced along the alignment near One-Tree Hill Road, which serves to facilitate a wildlife corridor into the future at this location.

Various studies were completed and reviewed to support the detailed design including stormwater management, traffic management at various intersections, geotechnical testing and structural design.

These studies informed the geometric design of roads upgraded as part of the project including intersections at Potts Road, Calton Road, Main North Road and closure of Barnet Road to form a cul-de-sac.

The project also included new traffic signals at the intersection of Potts Road and Main North Road with new footpaths and various driveway crossover replacements in order to facilitate property access.

Council continued to advocate for quality outcomes for the Gawler community during the construction phase with selection of material types for various items of public realm infrastructure including footpaths, kerbs, asphalt, public artwork, verge finishes, landscape outcomes at roundabouts, location of future street trees, street lighting and access provision for maintenance vehicles and private properties.

The public artwork wall delivered by DPTI has various images that are culturally significant to the Kaurna community, demonstrating the unique history of the local area and their connection to the land. Further public artwork was planned by DPTI as part of a reflection area near Dead Mans Pass along with official naming of the South Para Bridge, however these are expected to be finalised in the 2020-2021 financial year.

During construction staff also engaged with the local community and Springwood Communities in delivery of landscape outcomes and deferred infrastructure. It was noted that the majority of the deferred infrastructure design was completed and discussed between DPTI, Town of Gawler and Springwood Communities relative to timing of delivery and location of current assets (i.e. current footpath locations and on-street parking locations). The careful planning of deferred works has future-proofed the road for the Gawler community and will assist the orderly development of Gawler East.



Gawler East Link Road public artwork

OUR GROWTH - Key Achievements

Main North Road/Tulloch Road Intersection Upgrade
Alongside the footprint of the Gawler East Link Road project, the State Government is managing the delivery of the Main North Road/Tulloch Road Intersection Upgrade project. This project entails the signalisation of the Main North Road/Tulloch Road/Morrow Avenue intersection, widening of Main North Road and upgrading the intersection of Barnet Road and Tulloch Road. Works commenced on site in early 2019 and were substantially completed by 30 June 2020. Landscaping works are expected to be finished in the second half of 2020.

Southern Urban Areas
The Town of Gawler finalised two investigations in the southern urban areas, which includes the new growth areas of Evanston Gardens and Evanston South. The investigations were undertaken to inform delivery of recycled water network infrastructure in the southern urban areas under the Southern Urban Areas Infrastructure Delivery Deed. It will also explore the potential for an expanded scheme to supply recycled water to the Town of Gawler more broadly Whilst the two investigations are complete further work is required to confirm the economic viability of a broader recycled water network in terms of business case development, external funding opportunities and development of the Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme.

Annual Road Reseal and Patch Repair Programs
The annual Road Reseal Program included sealing 5,618 metres of local roads. The Council has pursued innovative sustainable asphalt delivery as part of its program through both inclusion of increased recycled asphalt into the mix design as well as recyclable plastics as binding agents.

Road resealing of 4,028m along Brereton Road, Brigalo Street, Cheek Avenue, Cork Road, Coventry Road, Sunnyside Drive, Gawler River Road, Reed Road was completed using 30% recycled asphalt. The remaining 1,590 metres of road resurfacing was completed on Brown Street, Coles Road, Elaine Street, Second



Road reseal using a new recycled asphalt product, Reconophalt™

Street, Wilton Street, Margaret Street, and Short Street using a new recycled asphalt product, Reconophalt™. Reconophalt™ uses 30% recycled asphalt and recycles soft plastics, including printer toner cartridges and plastic bags sourced from plastics recycling programs REDcycle and Close the Loop. The first road seal program using Reconophalt™ in the Council area occurred this year.

The 1,590 metres of road reseal using Reconophalt™ resulted in 11.2 tonnes of CO2 reduction through recycling approximately 240,000 plastic bags, 14,000 toner cartridges, and 230 tonnes of recycled asphalt, all diverted from landfill and repurposed into our roads in a safe and sustainable manner. The road patch program completed 341 metres of road patch repair along eight local roads.

Willaston Cemetery Conservation and Management Plan
Upgrade works associated with the approved Cemetery Conservation and Management Plan continued during the year. The Council Depot Civil team with a local contractor to the area have completed stage 4 of the Cemetery upgrade with the installation of 1000m² of concrete paving to roadways located in Block 4 and laying of compacted rubble to adjoining aisles.

Barnet Road School Emu Crossings
Council along with DPTI jointly funded the design and construction of two new Emu school crossings on Barnet Road to facilitate safe access to the Gawler and District College. Council was successful in securing funding under the Way-2-Go Program and procured construction of both crossings with a civil contractor. The design was completed in consultation with the Gawler and District College and construction was completed within the \$80,000 budget in time for the start of the school term in July 2019. The new school crossings will also benefit pedestrian movement to the new on-street parking constructed along Barnet Road as part of the Gawler East Link Road project and safe access to the adjacent shopping precinct.



Cemetery upgrade

OUR GROWTH - Key Achievements

Gawler Business Development Group
The Gawler Business Development Group (GBDG) is contracted by Council under a funding agreement, executed on the 3 June 2019, to assist with promoting and marketing the businesses within the Town of Gawler. Council provides the GDBG with annual funding in the amount of the Separate Rate levied against commercial and industrial properties in accordance with Council's Strategic Rating Policy. In 2019/20 the funding amount provided to the GDBG is \$175,870 excluding GST.

The GBDG has met its obligations under the funding agreement for the 2019/2020 financial year, providing Council with regular quarterly reports and a copy of its annual report for the 2018/2019 financial year.

- Key achievements reported by GBDG include:
- Commissioning and airing of a Gawler Television Commercial filmed by South Aussie with Cosi team.
 - South Aussie with Cosi, Gawler segment
 - 1851 business assists/ engagements
 - Providing regular updates to their members regarding the pandemic restrictions and opportunities for training, business support initiatives and grants provided by the Government.
 - \$20,000 allocated to provide Virtual Advisory Services for local businesses needing advice on how to navigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their business.

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 \$39,140 to RDA BGLAP.

Business Innovation Hub
The Business Innovation Hub (Hub) within the Gawler Civic Centre remained externally operated by Mr Andrew Morris for the entire financial year. Hub membership grew from eight to 16 paid members and maintained 3 complimentary members prior to the Coronavirus pandemic which took hold in March 2020 and forced the temporary closure of the Hub. With working from home becoming the “new normal” during these initial Coronavirus restrictions, Hub membership fell considerably across the last quarter of the 2019/20 financial year. As at 30 June 2020, Mr Morris reported 10 Hub members (down 37.5% from the previous quarter) comprising seven full-time paid and three complimentary.

The Hub provided either full or partial subsidies on membership fees without question during the last quarter

of the financial year to ensure ongoing engagement. Seven members left the Hub across the quarter with only one new starter. Of the members that have left the Hub, three outgrew the space with the COVID-19 scenario moving their plans to relocate forward and four chose to simply withdraw membership.

Paid memberships across the year came from a range of business and entrepreneurial industries including financial services, digital marketing, google analytics, enterprise layer software solutions, energy consultancy, employment services, talent acquisition, mental health NDIS, Support provider for homeless, domestic violence and drug related individuals, music production and financial advisory for the over 65 demographic.

The Hub continued to work with ThincLab and Lot Fourteen to finalise an Entrepreneurs' Workshop, partnered with BRACE Education to deliver an entrepreneurial start up business case development program that fed directly to ThincLab's programs and was the key driver for the development of Australia's first Aboriginal owned and operated telecommunications company – Mob Connect.

Despite the Coronavirus pandemic, the Hub continued to be involved in the development of new businesses within Gawler and these businesses are anticipated to be launched and be brought on as members in August 2020. Membership projections expect the Hub to be at capacity by November 2020 and revitalised programming to commence in 2021, subject to pandemic restrictions that may be in place at the time.



Barnet Road Crossing

OUR GROWTH - Key Achievements

Heritage Advisory Services

In 2019/20 a free Local Heritage Advisory Service continued to be offered to the community via external consultancy services in order to assist in delivering quality planning outcomes. This Local Heritage Advisory Service was also used by the administration to provide advice to the Council Assessment Panel when considering the appropriateness of development involving both Local Heritage Places and Contributory Items.

Heritage Grant Scheme

Council offers a grant of up to \$1,500 to assist owners of Local Heritage and Contributory Places with conservation work. During the 2019/20 financial year Council approved three Heritage Grants application from members of the community totalling \$4,500

Development Assessment Services

Development Application numbers dropped slightly this year, with 617 received in 2019/2020 compared to 626 applications in 2018/19.

Council has run a paperless development assessment system for several years, and continues to see an increased proportion of development application documents submitted electronically. Approximately 76% of all applications were submitted electronically in the 2019/20 Financial Year, up from 70% the previous year. This results in continued benefits to the environment by reducing Council's and the community's carbon footprint and improved workplace efficiencies. These efficiencies have resulted in time and cost savings within handling and processing of applications and improved assessment timeframes.

A total of 46 Development Applications were brought before the Council Assessment Panel during 2019/20,

up from 38 in the previous year. 29 Developments applications (63%) were granted Development Plan Consent, seven (15%) were refused, and four (9%) were deferred, compared to twenty-seven applications (71%), five refused (13%) and six deferred (16%) respectively in 2018/19.

Disability Infrastructure Review

The Gawler Disability Infrastructure Review commenced in the 2019-2020 financial year with engagement of a specialist traffic engineering consultant. The project included identification of issues and opportunities in the Town Centre Precinct with respect to pedestrian movement and provides recommendations for future actions to improve access and mobility for those in the community living with a disability.

The project demonstrates the Council's commitment to improving connections in the community and in the implementation of the Gawler Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. It is expected the project will be completed in the 2020-2021 financial year and inform an update to existing capital works programs.

Street and Park Furniture Renewals

During the 2019-20 budget period the Council staff have undertaken upgrades to existing street and park furniture, rubbish bins and associated hard scapes in and around the community. Locations included: Clonlea Reserve, Dog Park, Rossiter Reserve, Braeview Reserve and Haywood Court Reserve.

Gawler Oval Carpark Design

With the existing pavement reaching the end of its service life at the Gawler Oval Carpark, the Council commissioned an engineering consultant to undertake pavement investigations and carpark design work.



Street and Park Furniture Renewals

OUR GROWTH - Key Achievements

A concept design was completed and consultation undertaken with local precinct users. Recognising the site is a cross-functional space used for events and car parking at various times of the year, the consultation undertaken by the Council has informed the design and will improve the safe movement of vehicles and pedestrians into the future.

The design also includes increased landscaping and water sensitive urban design outcomes, which are expected to have beneficial urban cooling outcomes into the future. Detailed design is expected to be completed in the 2020-21 financial year and construction is subject to future annual budget approvals.

SA Power Networks Amenity Pruning under Powerlines - Trial Outcomes

Council staff have been actively working with SA Power Networks (SAPN – South Australia's power utility) in preparing and undertaking a trial amenity pruning program at the time their legislated vegetation clearance of street trees occurred in the 2019/20 Financial Year. SAPN are legislated to undertake there three (3) year cyclic vegetation clearances of their powerlines in non-bushfire risk areas in the Council including privately owned trees.

On endorsement of the pruning partnership trial, Council qualified staff proceeded to conduct a field survey with SAPN's sub-contractors. The purpose of this was to identify all of Council's trees impacted and document the required treatments, both pruning and balancing, ensuring compliance to the Australian Standards pruning of amenity trees AS4373-2007. This joint project has

been deemed a success by Council staff as it provided a very efficient and cost effective way to manage the impact to the Council trees from powerline vegetation management. It also limited the opportunity for negative community feedback, ensuring the trees were not left in an unacceptable visual aesthetic. To this end, Council staff did not receive any complaints once all amenity pruning had been undertaken which was pleasing.

The opportunity for Council to work in collaboration with SAPN was deemed successful and seamless. The continuation of this program has been supported by the Council due to the positive outcomes provided for the Council and the community.

Murray Street Upgrade Stage 6

The Murray Street Stage 6 Upgrade project was completed providing an attractive entrance statement into the town centre with upgraded traffic management and signals, pavements, drainage, public lighting and new landscaping complementing previous stages of the Murray Street Upgrades. A further Stage 7 of the works will continue from south of the Mill Inn Bridge along Adelaide Road to Tenth Street, complementing the prior Murray Street upgrades.

Rehabilitation Gawler Mill Inn Bridge

The Gawler Mill Inn Bridge was substantially completed with upgrades to the Gawler Mill Inn bridge deck, stormwater infrastructure, footpaths and road safety barriers. The refurbishment of the Gawler Mill Inn bridge which included strengthening the bridge will extend the lifespan of the Gawler Mill Inn bridge and ensure it meets the future needs of the town.



Gawler Mill Inn Bridge Cleaning Project



SA Power Networks Amenity Pruning under Powerlines



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** Health and social wellbeing services in Gawler to meet growing regional community needs
- Home Assist Program
 - Youth Sportsperson Sponsorship Program
 - Youth Portal
 - School Holiday Programs
 - Public Health and Food Safety
 - Public Health and COVID-19
 - Immunisation Services
 - Fifth St Playground Renewal

- OBJECTIVE 3.2** Sporting facilities to meet local and regional community needs
- Sports Facilities provided to the Community
 - Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan
 - Essex Park and Gawler Showgrounds Regional Sporting Precinct Master Plan
 - Gawler Aquatic Centre

- Aquatic Centre Stage 5 rehabilitation works
 - Stadium Floor and Walls
- OBJECTIVE 3.3** Provide facilities for a range of different recreational activities
- Gawler Sport and Community Centre and Gawler Elderly Centre
- OBJECTIVE 3.4** Gawler to be an inclusive and welcoming community
- Civic Centre Youth Space
 - Events
 - Gawler Reconciliation Action Plan
 - National Reconciliation Week
 - NAIDOC Week
- OBJECTIVE 3.5** Recognise, respect, support and advocate on behalf of volunteers
- Volunteering with Gawler Council

- Volunteer Recognition Events
 - Gawler Civic Centre Tour Guide and Greeters
 - Cultural Heritage Centre Volunteers
 - Gawler Visitor Information Centre
- OBJECTIVE 3.6** Encourage the development of the Arts and creative sector
- Youth Urban Arts Program
 - Youth Artist Sponsorship Program
- OBJECTIVE 3.7** Provision of library services
- Gawler Library Services

Home Assist Program
The Town of Gawler remains committed to the provision of a range of services to assist older eligible residents and people living with disability to remain living independently within their own home. These services are delivered through the Councils Home Assist Program, which provides subsidised home support that aims to assist with tasks people are no longer able to do themselves or assists them to remain connected to their community.
During the year, Councils Home Assist Program provided:

- 605 older residents with a service
- 42 people with disability a service
- 5800 hours of cleaning and general domestic assistance
- 2174 hours of visitors and social activities
- 1423 hours of home maintenance and gardening assistance
- \$13,835 of Home Modification equipment installed

However, with the Home Assist Programs target audience being identified as some of those most at risk of COVID 19, from March 2020 services were adapted to meet the changing needs of our residents. During this time, the Program:

- Conducted more than 400 welfare checks
- Implemented 723 COVID specific services, including maintaining regular contact and where necessary, shopping on behalf of people
- Provided 494 hours of service directly in response to COVID 19
- Activated 37 new referrals

Youth Sportsperson Sponsorship Program
The purpose of the Youth Sports Person Sponsorship Program is to recognise and encourage the achievements of young people aged 12-25 years of age in our community, by providing sponsorship for State and/or National representation in sporting activities. This year Council supported 15 young people to the total value of \$1700.

School Holiday Programs
During this financial year Council delivered 45 school holiday programs through the Gawler Youth Space, 629 attended programs. Programs provided were a range of social and skill development programs. Social programs included workshops such as smartphone photography, short film production, special effects, cooking, puppy playdates and arts, 371 attended. Skill development workshops are focused on helping our local young people obtain entry level skills to gain employment such as How to Adult - Getting a Job, Barista Basics, National White Card, Apply First Aid, Responsible Service of Alcohol and Prepare to Drive – Getting your Learners Permit, 258 completed certificates or obtained licenses.

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, licencing of supported residential facilities, inspections of public pools, and

assessment of wastewater works applications, registration of warm water systems (cooling towers) and general health and food complaints. Throughout the year Environmental Health Officer's worked closely with local business owners and community to provide up to date information relating to Public Health. A free online food handler training program on the Council website called "Do Food Safely" is promoted by Environmental Health Officers to all food businesses.

During this year, the Environmental Health Team inspected 350 food premises, inspected 50 pools and dealt with six food complaints.

Public Health and COVID-19
The emergence of the global pandemic COVID-19 resulted in the declaration of a major emergency in South Australia on 22 March 2020 relative to the outbreak of the Human Disease named COVID-19 within South Australia.

Councils Environmental Health Officer's continue to play a pivotal role on the front line of this global pandemic through liaising with our business community and disseminating information relative to COVID-19. Officers have undertaken inspections of food and public health businesses to check for compliance with restrictions implemented by the State Government under numerous Emergency Management Directions.

Fifth Street Playground Renewal
The renewal of the existing playground located at on the corner of Adelaide Road and Fifth Street has provided a updated play space for children to enjoy. The new playground features improved accessibility and a wide range of activities for kids to enjoy including swings, climbing stations, a play tower and more.

It is hoped that this new playspace will provide much entertainment for Gawler families for years to come. A extended footpath and accessible picnic bench are being incorporated into the playground in 2020/21.



Fifth Street Playground Renewal

OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

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, cricket, soccer and softball, as well as including facilities for gymnastics and dance sports and a significant active recreation offering for the broader community.

Council adopted the Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan in principle in December 2019, following broad community consultation, as well as additional targeted engagement with key facility stakeholders. Following the in principle 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. The immediate and potential longer term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been incorporated into project implementation planning, being presented to Council in early July 2020. This will guide project delivery during the 2020/21 financial year and beyond.

Essex Park and 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, including key Council community facilities, the Gawler Aquatic Centre and Gawler Sport & Community Centre. 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.

Initial community consultation for the development of the Master Plan commenced at the 2019 Gawler Show, with Showgoers providing comments about their use of the facilities and proposing opportunities to improve the way they use the Gawler Showgrounds. Coordinated engagement with all leaseholders and precinct users continued during 2019, with the commentary provided by these key stakeholders used to inform the development of initial concepts for redevelopment, in particular for Gawler Sport & Community Centre and the surrounding Gawler Showgrounds. The COVID-19 pandemic



Gawler Aquatic Centre

significantly affected the progression of the Master Plan, in particular ceasing the ability to collaboratively consult with leaseholders and users in relation to the concepts that have been developed. The Essex Park & Gawler Showgrounds Regional Sporting Precinct Master Plan project will recommence and be finalised during the 2020/21 financial year.

Gawler Aquatic Centre

On the 8th October 2019, the 57th season of the Gawler Aquatic Centre was officially opened by Mayor Redmond with the community invited to the centre to celebrate the opening. Attendance for the season was a total of 57,371 people. The attendance was less than the previous year (-9.17%) due to overall cooler temperatures and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This affected all programs including Learn to Swim and user group usage of the centre and on the 25 March 2020 the centre closed as mandated by the Federal Government.

Throughout the season the Learn to Swim school saw an increase of 1% of total enrolments for the program with an increase in enrolments of 3.5% to a total of 491 students enrolled in Term 1, 2020. In Term 1, 2020 the Gawler Aquatic Centre could accept 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 139 vouchers were redeemed and provided great benefits to families by helping to make swimming lessons affordable.

Some of the 2019/2020 Season highlights include:

- The Centre successfully delivering the 2020 VACSWIM Program which attracted 1,626 participants.
- The Swimming and Water Safety Program for local, public primary and junior primary school children provided 15,980 lessons throughout the season.
- School Holiday Intensive Programs held in December 2019 (93) and January 2020 (45). A 2 for 1 promotion was offered during the December School Holiday intensive Program
- Gawler Blue Light Splash'n'Slide held on 22 February 2020.
- A Thank you BBQ and Christmas cards for members and Learn to Swim families with a visit from Santa.

Works commenced in June 2020 on the upgrade of the Gawler Aquatic Centre Change Room Facilities. The total project cost, including design, project management and construction contingency is \$942,000 with Council's contribution of \$533,055 and grant funding through Sport Australia's Community Sport and Infrastructure Project of \$409,445. The project will provide complete refurbishment of all changing room areas to offer family friendly change room spaces that are compliant for all users. An opening celebration to launch the upgraded facilities and showcase this to the community is currently being planned.

OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

Aquatic Centre Stage 5 rehabilitation works

Key maintenance works were undertaken at the Gawler Aquatic Centre as part of the Stage 5 rehabilitation project. These works included repairs to and re-tiling areas of the 50m pool and upgrades to the centre's plant rooms to ensure the pool can continue operating as per relevant industry standards.

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. In 2019/2020 42,416 visitors attended these facilities to engage in educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment.

In addition, Council led two very popular programs, gentle fitness (877 participants in 19/20) and skating programs (5,629 participants in 19/20). A highlight of the skating programs were the three theme skating evenings where 489 attended. During the bushfires in December 2019, Gawler Sport and Community Centre provided a refuge as an Evacuation Centre for those unable to return to their homes including Hillier Park Residential Village and Angle Vale residents. Council staff worked with other State Government agencies to provide support, food and shelter to those displaced until they were able to safely return to their homes.

From November 2019 to January 2020 a major upgrade was completed of the Stadium at the Gawler Sport and Community Centre. This upgrade was possible through funding of \$75,000 provided by the Office for Recreation and Sport through their Sporting Surfaces program. The upgrade included the removal of the stage, floor re-surfacing, line marking and the installation of new netting. The works has increased the quality and look of the facility and with the work completed on the roof, cladding and painting all adding to the new look and feel of the Gawler Sport and Community Centre.

Civic Centre Youth Space

The Gawler Youth Space has provided a safe space for many young people to attend free term programs or low/ subsidised cost school holiday programs. The space regularly hosts meetings with child and youth providers including the Child Friendly Group and the Gawler & District Youth Workers Network. In the 2019 calendar year 116 young people became members of the Youth Space. Youth Space Members are those that regularly attend term programs. At the end of June 2020 the current Membership of the Youth Space was 55. Considering the Coronavirus COVID-19 implications and changes to programs this is a solid number.

Gawler Reconciliation Action Plan

The Gawler Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) July 2018 – July 2020, 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 Town of Gawler is one of only six South Australian Councils to have an endorsed Reconciliation Australia RAP.

National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is an opportunity to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

Council is actively involved in the planning and implementation of the annual Reconciliation Community Fun Day that is held during National Reconciliation Week. The day includes a wide variety of entertainment, activities and information stalls. In 2019, around 1,500 people attended the event, with more than 700 of these being local students. This is the only event of its kind in the North and each year it grows in popularity. It is a significant event that brings the community together in the spirit of reconciliation.

In 2020, the event could not proceed due to COVID-19 restrictions, however a range of promotion, awareness raising and online initiatives took place including workshops, film screenings and cultural learning opportunities.

NAIDOC Week

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

- Library NAIDOC themed Craft-it and story time sessions
- NAIDOC Luncheon (hosted by the Aboriginal Health Team)
- Basket Weaving workshops
- Cultural Connection - NAIDOC Week Family Event



Reconciliation Week Event

OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

Events

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

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

- Annual Reconciliation Community Fun Day
- Gawler Show
- Christmas Carols
- Australia Day
- ANZAC and Remembrance Day
- NAIDOC Week Events
- Rotary Village Fair
- Outdoor Cinema

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

Volunteering with Gawler Council

Council's volunteer program continues to deliver positive outcomes for both our communities and our volunteers. They support an enhance a number of Councils different programs and services, including the Civic Centre, Clock Tower, Cultural Heritage Collection, Events, Graffiti Removal, Home Assist Program, Library Services, Recreation Services, the Visitor Information Centre and the Youth Program. In the first half of the 2019/20, we saw our volunteer program grow substantially, both in number and in volunteer hours. In this period, Council volunteering recorded its highest number of new



#ColourYourCommunityRed social media campaign

applications. However, COVID saw the suspension of all volunteer programs from March 2020. Whilst Programs have slowly begun to recommence, not all volunteer Programs were yet operational at the end of June.

This resulted in the Council recording a slight decrease in volunteer hours as a result of the suspension of all volunteer services. In 2019/20, Councils programs recorded 6,610 volunteer hours with 118 active volunteers. This included the recruitment of 28 new volunteers.

Despite the challenge of COVID, the Program continued to achieve some positive outcomes. This has included an increase in number of people reporting their volunteering, providing a pathway to employment and for those reporting that volunteering has supported their ongoing education. In addition, volunteers often report that some of the more personal benefits achieved as a result of their volunteering include the friendships, the sense of connection and the value of being able to give back to the community.

Volunteer Recognition Events

Each year, Council holds two annual Events aimed at recognising the contribution and value that volunteers add to Council services.

In December 2019, Council volunteers and Committee members were invited to an end of year celebratory event that also served as an opportunity to commend volunteers who were being recognised for ongoing years of service. In 2019, five (5) volunteers were recognised for 10 years of service to Council. Two (2) were recognised for 20 years and one (1) celebrated 30 years of ongoing service to Council's Skating Program.

Each year in May, National Volunteer Week is celebrated. Traditionally, it is the largest celebration of volunteering and volunteerism in Australia. However, due to COVID, it became essential that Council explored how it could continue to recognise the efforts of its volunteers during a time of restrictions and physical distancing. As an alternate to its customary event, from the 18th – 24th May, Council participated in some on-line alternatives. This included the #ColourYourCommunityRed social media campaign. As part of this initiative, Council decorated the facilities and buildings where volunteer programs operated with a series of red cut out people, to represent and thank the 118 volunteers who actively contributed to Councils services in 2019/20.

Other initiatives that were undertaken during the week included using social media to highlight the different volunteer programs, as well as the distribution of a personalised thank you to all registered volunteers from the Mayor.

Gawler Civic Centre

Volunteers have played an important and valued role in

OUR COMMUNITY - Key Achievements

the redeveloped Civic Centre across a number of the various operational areas.

Tour Guide and Greeters spent 411 hours in this role as the first point of contact to visitors and residents during rostered shifts. Volunteers provided professional, personalised and informative guided tours of the State Heritage listed Town of Gawler Institute and Town Hall to 209 people.

An additional objective was to promote Gawler Civic Centre activities, Town of Gawler highlights and surrounding regions' offerings, and encourage visitors to experience these with extra knowledge provided.

The Cultural Heritage Centre Volunteers have worked hard throughout the year caring for and sharing the Gawler Heritage Collection with the community. These volunteers help staff with a variety of tasks including cataloguing, research, education programs and exhibition preparation. The number of volunteers grew from two to seven by the conclusion of the 19/20 year.

Gawler Visitor Information Centre

The 34 Gawler Visitor Information Centre volunteers play an important and valued role as ambassadors for our town. During 2019-20 they have provided 4,800 hours sharing professionally their passion of our town, encouraging approximately 12,500 visitors to stay longer and experience all that Gawler has to offer.

Volunteers also recognise the vast history of Gawler and enjoy delivering informative specialised guided tours to visitors and locals with either a choice of walking tours or they hop on a tour bus and present a one hour heritage tour of our town.

Youth Urban Arts Program

The Youth Urban Arts Program has seen some wonderful artist work with young people delivering live arts at events, in term programs at the Youth Space, Gawler Fringe activities and workshops, and finally the design and installation of temporary artworks during the redevelopment of Walk Place.

Youth Artist Sponsorship Program

The purpose of the Youth Artist Sponsorship Program is to recognise and encourage the achievements of young people aged 12-25 years in our community, by providing sponsorship to develop their chosen art form. These may include but not be limited to: traditional media such as paintings and drawings, photography and film. This year Council supported three young people to the total value of \$400.

Gawler Library Services

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

130 public libraries across the state. The Gawler Library Service consists of two branches, the Civic Centre Library and the Evanston Gardens Library. It also offers a Home Visits service, which delivers library materials to people who live in the community, but cannot come into the Library for a variety of reasons.

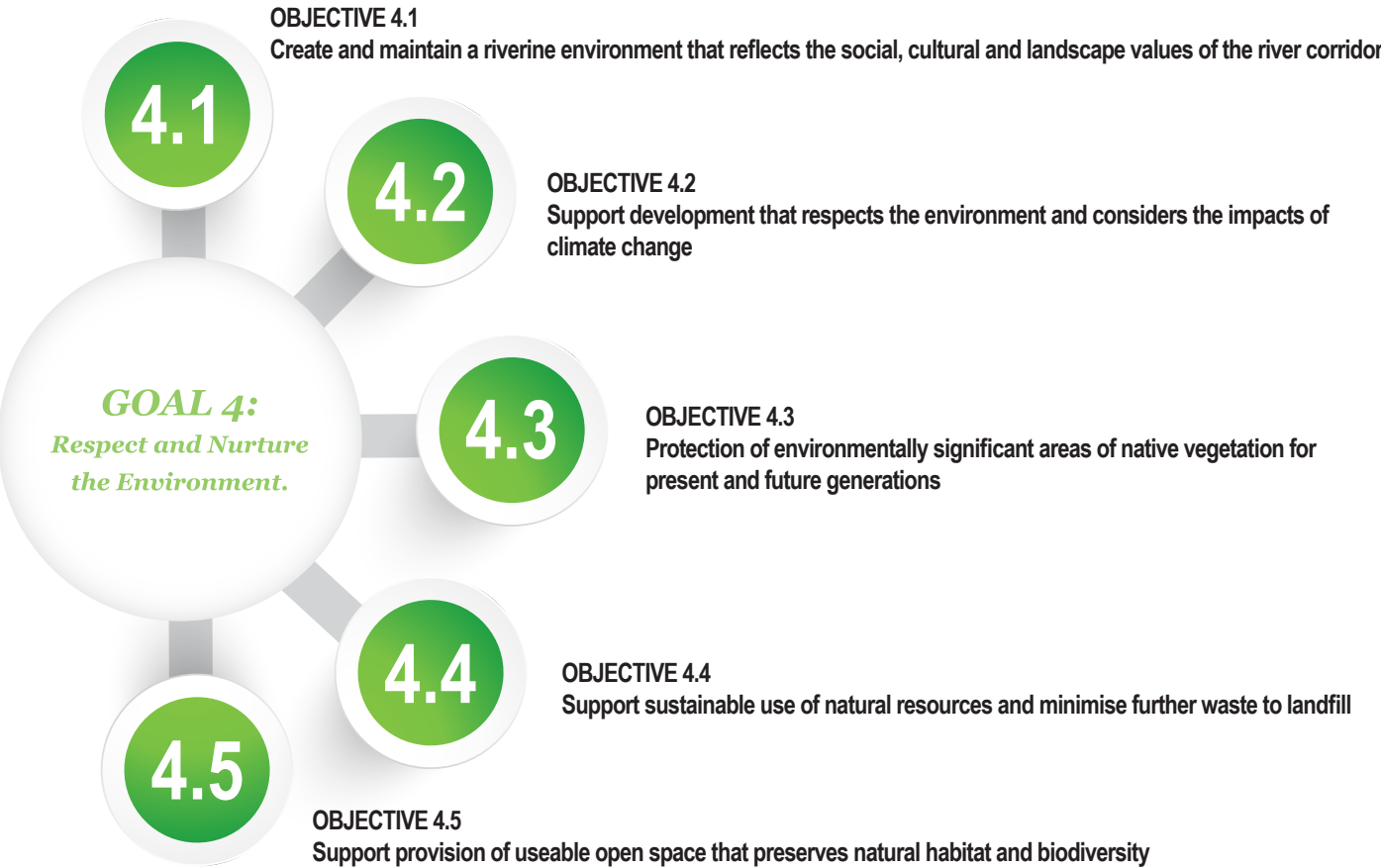
In 2018-19, the Library offered a range of programs and events for children and adults, including Storytime sessions, early childhood science sessions, after-school craft activities, coding with Micro:bits, Book Clubs, regular adult craft and/or community information sessions, a Short Story Competition with prizes for children, youth and adults, 1-on-1 Tech Savvy sessions, Be Connected digital literacy sessions and regular school holiday activities. The Library also takes part in wider community events such as Gawler Fringe (with a Library tent, book trailers, children's building activities, and Fringe in the Park crafts), Harmony Day and NAIDOC Week.

COVID-19 impacted Library services in 2019-2020. In response to Federal and State Government restrictions designed to limit the spread of Coronavirus, Library programs and events were temporarily cancelled, and then both Libraries closed to the public in March 2020. Although the Library doors were closed, the community relied on the Library to provide connection, resources, activities, distraction and engagement during COVID-19 at a time when we couldn't be physically together.

The Library quickly implemented the provision of Call and Collect services, the extension of the existing Home Visits service into a new Drop and Wave service, and numerous school holiday online activities on WordPress and Facebook; all of which resulted in much positive feedback.



Youth Award winners



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** Create and maintain a riverine environment that reflects the social, cultural and landscape values of the river corridor
- Gawler Urban Rivers Biodiversity Program
 - Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority
 - Biodiversity Management Plan

- OBJECTIVE 4.2** Support development that respects the environment and considers the impacts of climate change
- Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Committee
 - Flood Safe
 - Climate Emergency Action Plan
 - Fire Prevention Program

- OBJECTIVE 4.3** Protect environmentally significant areas of native vegetation for present and future generations
- Regulated Trees and Native vegetation
 - Springwood Development Application Assessment
 - Open Space Management

- OBJECTIVE 4.4** Support sustainable use of natural resources and minimise further waste to landfill
- Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority
 - Hard Waste

- OBJECTIVE 4.5** Support provision of useable open space that preserves natural habitat and biodiversity
- Land Division & Open Space Guidelines
 - Land Division Processes
 - Open Space Management
 - Willaston Oval Nature Playspace
 - Hindmarsh Boulevard Landscape Amenity Improvements

Gawler Urban Rivers Biodiversity Program
Council is committed to ongoing works in the Gawler Urban Rivers to continue the delivery of biodiversity outcomes in the river corridor. Works which occurred are aligned with the Gawler Urban Rivers Masterplan and Council's Biodiversity Management Plan. All works were carried out in accordance with Council's Best Practice Operating Procedures and in collaboration with project partner Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board. In the winter of 2019, Council commenced the delivery of biodiversity works along the North Para, South Para and the Gawler River. Works included removal of wood weed and fourteen (14) exotic trees, supply of selected native plant species, revegetation activities in specific areas and additional weed management activities.

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

- Key Achievements of the GRFMA during this period were:
- Adoption of a new contemporary Charter in January 2020 and commencing work on a comprehensive review of the Charter in regards to alternative governance and funding models. This work, labelled Charter 2, is ongoing and expected to be completed in 2021. Subsequent decisions are then required by each constituent Council on any changes proposed.
 - Since endorsing the Northern Floodway Project, the GRFMA has maintained constant advocacy initiatives pursuing funding for the project. An Advocacy Program was developed and implemented with meetings held with Federal Members of Parliament, Senators, State Members of the Legislative Council and State Members of Parliament seeking financial support.
 - Commenced a Bruce Eastick North Para Flood Mitigation Dam Safety Emergency Plan in partnership with the LGA Council Ready Program.
 - Produced a Bruce Eastick North Para Flood Mitigation Dam Operations and Maintenance Manual
 - Commenced a partnership project to develop a decision support tool for managing flood risk on the Gawler Rivers with the Adelaide University.
 - Reappointed both the Chairperson Mr Ian Baldwin and the Executive Officer Mr David Hitchcock for another three and two year terms respectively.

Biodiversity Management Plan
The Biodiversity Management Plan includes recommendations to assist Council with planning for future implementation. In 2019, the Town of Gawler implemented biodiversity management plan actions on two capital works projects and in the assessment of landscape plans associated with new housing estates. Projects delivered included the Southern Gateway Entrance Statement Supplementary Landscaping works with planting of native grasses and Hindmarsh Boulevard Amenity Landscaping works with biodiversity plantings. In addition, actions relating to new housing estates were implemented with delivery of new biodiversity plantings at the Highfield Stage in Springwood housing estate to support local flora and fauna.

Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Committee
The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Committee continues to meet on a regular basis and is represented by nominees from Emergency Services, State Government agencies and all Local Government Councils abutting the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region. The Committee deals with strategic directions in relation to the risk from bushfires and determines the commencement and conclusion of the bushfire season within Region One of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges. The Town of Gawler is a member of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Bushfire Management Committee

Climate Emergency Action Plan
The Town of Gawler in 2019 was the first Council in South Australia to declare a climate emergency and urged action by all levels of government to address the climate emergency.

As a result of the declaration, Council has endorsed the development of a Climate Emergency Action Plan. The Climate Emergency Action Plan will examine adaptation, mitigation and resilience strategies with the view of reducing climate impacts for the Council and our community in a timeframe that is as fast as practicably possible.

Its aim is the formulation of a Plan that includes both community consultation and engagement at all levels. The

OUR ENVIRONMENT - Key Achievements

development of a Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) provides a plan for how Council and the community will seek to respond to the climate emergency.

The climate emergency declaration also resulted in the formation of a Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group. The Working Group consists of elected members, community members, youth representatives and Council staff. The Working Group since commencing has been meeting regularly in an open forum and is tasked with the formulation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

- The Working Group purpose includes:
- Developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan to be adopted by Council.
 - Collaborating with Council's project team leader, taking into consideration such things as project outcomes and milestones.
 - Collaborating with Council's project team leader to guide community engagement in the preparation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
 - Undertaking effective community consultation on a draft Climate Emergency Action Plan
 - Effecting an outcome of the Climate Emergency Action Plan that reflects community aspirations.

- Some of the initiatives being examined by the CEAP Working Group include:
- Energy
 - Solar PV Systems
 - Solar Generation
 - Councils Vehicle Fleet
 - Accessing GreenPower
 - Upgrades to LED Street Lighting

Flood Safe
The State Emergency Service and South Australian and Australian Governments are continuing the review the FloodSafe Program. The FloodSafe Program is funded



Tree Planting and Revegetation Program

by the Department for Environment and Water, and the Gawler Council.

Fire Prevention Program
During the previous year, Council's Fire Prevention Officers (FPO'S) have utilised various methods to raise awareness of the importance of fire prevention activities, which have included social media, local newspaper advertisements, community meetings, educational displays at the Civic Centre and direct correspondence with landowners. Property owners are legally obligated under the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 to maintain their properties to prevent and/or inhibit the spread of fire across the land.

In December of 2019, residents in the areas surrounding Hillier experienced an evacuation due to a fast moving grass fire during a catastrophic fire condition day. This was a traumatic experience for many in the vicinity, and demonstrated that we are not immune from bushfire within the Town of Gawler. By keeping grasses short, vegetation pruned and fuel loads reduced, we can reduce our bushfire risk substantially. The Hillier fire should also be a timely reminder for residents to create or review their Bushfire Survival Plans to ensure the safety of family members and pets. In the lead up to fire danger season in 2019, 291 early reminder letters were sent to properties who had not complied with their obligations during the previous year. During FPO inspections, there were 75 rural landowners and 120 residential landowners who were not compliant, and issued with a section 105F Notice. Out of those property owners who were issued with notices, 12 landowners were still found to be non-compliant on second inspection and were issued with Expiation Notices to the value of \$315.00 each. Council urges landowners to take responsibility for their land in the lead up to summer, but also to continue to do so throughout the entire duration of the fire danger season.

OUR ENVIRONMENT - Key Achievements

Regulated Trees and Native Vegetation
• Council commenced a Tree Condition and Risk Audit of all its Street trees. This project will enable the Council to understand the composition of its tree network, its condition, maturity and opportunities for further tree planting into the future. Once completed in late 2020 it is proposed that this data will be used to inform a strategic review of the Council's tree stock, through development of an Urban Tree Management Plan.

- Springwood Development Application Assessment
The Council reviewed and provided feedback to a development application lodged by Springwood to create in excess of 1400 allotments and impacted a high degree of flora and fauna with that proposal. The results of the Council's review was presented to the State Commission Assessment Panel for their consideration.

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

The adoption of Council's draft Open Space Guideline in the 2019-2020 financial year was a key achievement in the management of future open space in the Town of Gawler. The Open Space Guideline is an outcome of Council's commitment to the effective management of open space and references best practice public realm design as well as Councils Biodiversity Management Plan to inform design outcomes.

Over the past 12 months new open space areas have been designed in accordance with the Open Space Guideline and constructed by developers in Springwood, Orleana Waters, Aspire and Woodvale housing estates.

The total open space vested in the Town of Gawler grew by 4.13 hectares compared with last financial year, which included 2.78 hectares at Highfield in Springwood housing estate, 0.66 hectares at the Railway Reserve Buffer in Orleana Water housing estate, 0.11 hectares at the Pedestrian Link reserve in Aspire housing estate and 0.58 hectares at Woodvale housing estate.

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

Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority
Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority

(NAWMA) is a Local Government Regional Subsidiary of the Town of Gawler and the Cities of Salisbury and Playford.

The 2019-20 financial year has been one of significant change for NAWMA. A number of milestones have been accomplished, including the introduction of the extension of the Hard Waste Service to the Town of Gawler residences.

- NAMWA has continued to improve its best practice waste management and resource recovery facility through the following initiatives:
- Creating a Circular Economy, and adding value to the Town of Gawler community
 - Examining innovative and sustainable practices through the use of recycled material, particularly plastics and glass
 - Supporting private investment in developing new products that limit waste diversion to landfill
 - Examining environmental best practices initiatives as it relates to soft plastic use in resealing of roads
 - Commenced transitioning to providing glass and plastics to be utilised as "Reconophalt" a sustainable asphalt mix
 - Improve environmental sustainability across all areas of the business undertakings
 - Maximising annual financial returns to Councils; and
 - Establishing reliable markets for sale of processed recyclables.

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.

NAWMA has been leading the way with the provision of nationally recognised best practice waste management and resource recovery services. The 'China Sword Policy' brought forward drivers of change to recycling and NAWMA responded with the introduction of innovative resource recovery opportunities designed to keep waste out of landfill.

NAWMA's response to the circular economy has been to examine modern production processes which generate waste as a by-product. NAWMA has invested in modernising its Materials Recovery Facility (MRF - household yellow top bin recycling plant) to manage recyclables in a manner that not only shows manufacturers and organisations that it is possible to be more efficient and less wasteful by developing processes that emulate more 'circular' natural systems.

Council and NAWMA have embraced circular economy practices to extract the maximum value from discarded items and support the local processing of recovered materials.

OUR ENVIRONMENT - Key Achievements

To date the participation in the circular economy through the use of recycled materials includes:

- a) Capturing landfill gas and using it for electricity generation
- b) Processing a range of materials (including plastics, aluminium, steel, and glass) for use as secondary raw materials.

The opportunities within the circular economy are to decrease waste to landfill and greenhouse gas emissions and to increase employment and economic development across the sector within the northern region. Two Councillors and one staff member from the Town of Gawler sit on the NAWMA Board.

Hard Waste

Council once again provided a Hard Waste service for residents which was cost effective, maximised ratepayer benefits and achieved sustainable outcomes during 2019-2020. 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.



First Hard Waste Pickup

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

Land Division and Open Space Guidelines

To assist with the design and development of new open space areas the Town of Gawler Open Space Guidelines was adopted by the Council following consultation with key stakeholders and the community. The Open Space Guideline is a key open space management document for the Council and is intended to assist developers, consultants and Council in allocating, designing and implementing sufficient and suitable open space that meets Council's requirements.

The Guideline followed a review of maintenance costs associated with parks in new housing estates and will ensure open spaces delivered by developers will be financially sustainable for Council to maintain into the future in addition to delivering multiple beneficial outcomes relating to biodiversity enhancement, amenity, recreation and asset management.

Land Division Processes

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

The Open Space Guideline has also assisted with informing the forecasted open space to be vested in the Council over the next ten year period. The forecasted open space information has assisted to improve the forecasts for open space management in Council's Long Term Financial Plan as an additional process improvement.

Open Space Management

The Town of Gawler continues to experience growth and the management of open space areas is of key importance to ensure open space areas are financially sustainable to manage. The Council's Open Space Guideline, Biodiversity Management Plan, improved land division processes and forecasting of open space areas are all improvements in the way Council undertakes the management of its open space areas.

To assist with open space maintenance budget forecasting the relevant park maintenance classification (i.e. frequency of visits, playground inspections,

OUR ENVIRONMENT - Key Achievements

maintenance tasks etc.) has been integrated within the public realm infrastructure design provisions outlined for the corresponding category of park in Council's Open Space Guideline. This outcome will facilitate the accurate forecasting of costs for any given category of open space area developed in new housing estates and also assist with business resourcing discussions in future years.

Willaston Oval Nature Playspace

The Town of Gawler was successful in receiving grant funding from the State Government and commissioned the delivery of the Elliot Goodger Memorial Park (Willaston Oval) Nature Playspace in the 2019/20 financial year. This was an exciting project for the local community of Willaston to provide improved open space facilities in the area and was opened to the public in February 2020.

During the design phase of the playspace several locations were investigated and consultation with key stakeholders of Elliot Goodger Memorial Park and the community occurred. An Open House information session was held at the Willaston Football Club to facilitate feedback on the location and design elements for consideration in development of the final design. The final playground design was informed by further community engagement undertaken with the local community of Willaston and the Elliot Goodger sporting precinct users.

The playground provides both nature based and structured play as well as improved amenity and recreational benefits for the whole community. Play items

included an accessible basket swing, accessible cubby, timber stepping logs, scramble mound with tunnel, timber balance logs, rope climbing net with a native landscaped surround immersing the playspace amongst the trees. Other elements delivered included a picnic shelter with rubbish bin, picnic table for community use and integration with the recently completed BMX Pump Track area.

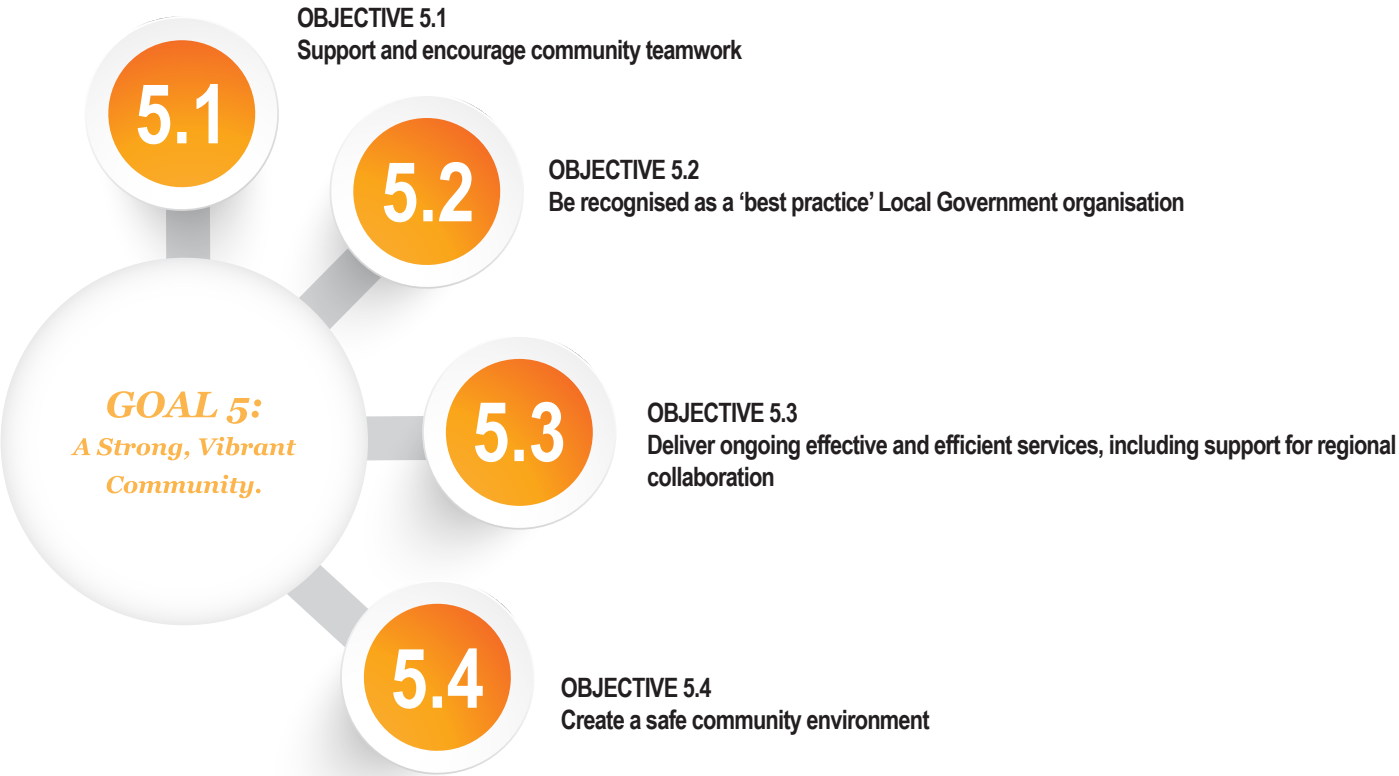
Hindmarsh Boulevard Landscape Amenity Improvements

Servicing the local community of Evanston Gardens, an existing reserve on Hindmarsh Boulevard was approved for landscape amenity improvements as part of Annual Budget. The Town of Gawler commenced the design of the landscape improvements that sought to achieve increased biodiversity as well as overall landscape amenity outcomes at the site.

Following consultation with the local community on the design, a specialist native grasses contractor was commissioned to deliver the works. Local community group 'Friends of Musgrave Reserve' were also successful in receiving a grant from the 'Fund My Neighbourhood' program to assist the Town of Gawler in delivery of biodiversity plantings on the site. Construction works commenced in May 2020 to facilitate optimal establishment conditions for the native grasses, trees and biodiversity plantings. It is expected the remainder of the project will be completed in the 2020-2021 financial year including path construction and installation of a bench seat.



Willaston Oval Nature Placespace



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 Support and encourage community teamwork

- Gawler Youth Advisory Committee
- Gawler & Districts Youth Workers Network
- Graffiti Program
- Gawler Visitor Information Centre
- Gawler Community House
- Community Groups, Service Clubs and Sporting Clubs
- Gawler Show
- Gawler Carols

OBJECTIVE 5.2 Be recognised as a 'best practice' Local Government organisation

- Implementation of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016
- Audit Committee
- Governance
- Human Resource Management and Organisational Development - Our People
- Cultural Awareness Program
- Our People Our Safety
- Electronic Data Management System
- Gawler Civic Centre Architecture and Planning Awards
- Response to COVID-19 – Gawler Civic Centre

• Enterprise Agreements

OBJECTIVE 5.3 Deliver ongoing effective and efficient services, including support for regional collaboration

- Memorandum of Understanding with Adelaide Plains
- Clonlea Dog Park – Licence Agreement
- Effectiveness and Efficiency Program
- Performance Excellence Program
- Cultural Awareness Program
- Digital Transformation of Council Business
- ArcGIS Spatial Technology
- Barossa Regional Procurement Group
- Barossa Light and Lower Northern Region Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Emergency Management Plan Review Disaster Resilience
- Environmental Management
- Arboriculture Review
- Landscape Irrigation Maintenance Plan (LIMP)

OBJECTIVE 5.4 Create a safe community environment

- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
- Traffic and Parking
- Animal Management
- Dogs in Gawler
- By-Laws
- Birds of Abundance
- Upgrade Public Lighting
- Building Fire Safety Committee
- Building Inspections
- Gawler Road Safety Group

Gawler Youth Advisory Committee

The Gawler Youth Advisory Committee continued to provide a communication link between young people in the Gawler community and Council. The Committee promotes a positive image of young people in the community. In addition they ensure the Youth Development Plan remains relevant and holds Council accountable to its implementation.

The Committee is made up of 13 youth members ranging from 12-24 years of age, and two elected members from Council.

Gawler & Districts Youth Workers Network

The Gawler & District Youth Workers Network is coordinated by Council and brings together all Government and non-Government agencies, not for profits, and community groups that work with children and young people directly, or have a desire to partner with groups that do to enhance support available.

The Network played a key role in the activation of the Gawler Youth Space in this financial year via the Great Adelaide Youth Project grant which gave capacity to provide a number of support programs, activities and groups including How to Adult – Getting a Job, Peaceful Kids, Bringing up Great kids, Future Parents Program, Out Da House and Labs 'n Life.

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 enjoyed the second year of having a dedicated graffiti removal vehicle which has provided efficiencies in operations and assisting the Volunteers to have ready access to the materials required. Council continues to work with South Australian Police (SAPOL) and Council's Youth Development Program to educate young people regarding Graffiti and uses a range of approaches to reduce the negative impact of graffiti in public places. During the last year:

- Council recorded 304 customer requests to remove graffiti
- The Graffiti Volunteer Team (13 members) worked 368 hours removing graffiti
- Graffiti hits removed 1,268

Focus has been to attract and recruit new Volunteers to the program and provide induction, support and training. This has been successful and increased the number of Volunteers until the program was put on hold from March 2020 until mid June 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Gawler Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

The Gawler Visitor Information Centre has a passionate team of 34 dedicated volunteers who perform their role as ambassadors of Gawler to visitors and locals during operations at the VIC seven days a week. Five volunteer

guides assist visitors to learn more about our History providing guided walking tours and private bus tours of Gawler. The VIC has attended to 12,430 visitors with 7,133 enquiries specifically relating to Gawler. COVID-19 has impacted visitor numbers due to closure for two months and restrictions for travellers.

Achievements for the year include:

- Maintained Accreditation through the Australian Tourism Accreditation Program (ATAP)
- Introduction of monthly Memoirs of EH Coombe Guided Tours
- New point of Sale system (Soldi) including on-line App
- Monthly Calendar of Events

Gawler Community House

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

Community Groups, Service Clubs and Sporting Clubs

Council provides ongoing support to a range of community groups, service clubs and sporting organisations.

Council continues to facilitate the Gawler and Districts Community Services Forum, a representative group of over 50 local services providers. The Forum maintains strong partnerships, advocates for additional services and representatives provide programs and services to assist and support the Gawler community.

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

Gawler Show

The 2019 Gawler Show was held over the weekend of the 24th and 25th of August, with the event again welcoming in excess of 30,000 showgoers through the gates. The Town of Gawler provides a meaningful and broad range of assistance to the Gawler Show Society across the

OUR LEADERSHIP - Key Achievements

planning, delivery and pack up for the annual event. The following Council teams provide significant levels of support, with their efforts going along way to help the Gawler Show in keeping its title as the biggest Country Show in South Australia:

- Aquatic and Recreation Services
- Town Services – Civil, Horticultural and Town Maintenance
- Community Services
- Environmental Services
- Regulatory Services
- Marketing and Communications
- Property and Procurement
- Engineering Services

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been immense for the Gawler Show Society, with the Society having to make the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Gawler Show. Council have commenced, and will continue through the 2020/21 financial year, working with the Show Society to assist the community organisation in areas such as strategic and business planning, helping them to recover from the cancellation of their 2020 event.

Gawler Carols

The Gawler Carols event is a highlight of the year for thousands in the community. The 2019 affair was held on Saturday 14 December 2019 and was the second of five to be coordinated by the dedicated team at the Apex Club of Gawler. Entertainment commenced at 6pm with the official opening starting at 8pm. MC for the night was local Apexian Raff Stomaci together with Hit 107 DJ Alexis. The entertainment lineup for the night was a combination of local and professional artists supported by the Gawler Town Band as well as children acts.

Preceding the above mentioned entertainment, the inclusion of a night market section was introduced for this years’ event with some 22 stalls participating.

The event was a success with the majority of the park being filled with patrons and children, with an anticipated attendance of some 3,000 people.

Implementation of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016

The implementation of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2016 for phase 3 Councils, including the Town of Gawler, that was originally due to occur as of 1 July 2020 has been delayed to early 2021. Notwithstanding this delay preparations to facilitate the impending transition from the Development Act 1993 to the Planning, Development and Infrastructure 2016, including of various submissions to the State Government have progressed during the 2019-20 financial year.

Audit Committee

Council has an Audit Committee, established pursuant to Section 126 of the Local Government Act 1999, which

met on seven occasions during the reporting period.

The Committee is comprised of four Elected Members (including the Mayor) and two Independent Members. The Independent Members on the Committee have appropriate qualifications, knowledge, and experience in Finance, Governance, and Risk to assist the Committee in its operations, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

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

Proposed legislation contained within the draft Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Bill 2020 prescribe that the membership of Committee will need to be a majority of Independent Members. At the time of writing, it is anticipated that the Bill, in its final revised form, will be legislated during December 2020.

Governance

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

Human Resource Management and Organisational Development

Town of Gawler's future success depends upon the skills, energy and commitment of its employees. A highly productive and competent workforce will deliver services that meet their infrastructure, community and financial responsibilities.

Council aims to attract, develop and retain talented individuals and provide a stimulating, supportive and safe work environment that enables them to maximise their contribution. Industrial arrangements and supporting human resources strategies, policies and tools are in place to offer a framework to improve Councils performance.

Our People

Our people are the heart of our organisation.

- The average length of service for employees at the Council (workforce tenure) is 7.7 years

OUR LEADERSHIP - Key Achievements

- The Town of Gawler's workforce average age is 45
- Gender Balance - Ratio of Male and Female employees (% as at 30 June 2020) Male 67, Female 71
- 138 Employee Numbers at 30 June 2020 inclusive of full time, part time, fixed term and casuals compared to 139 at 30 June 2019
- Annual employee turnover rate for 2019/2020 = 17.12%

The turnover rate was unusually high for 2019/2020. This was influenced by the COVID-9 pandemic and the subsequent impact of closing both services and sites. Due to the pandemic, there were nine part-time contracts at the Sport and Community Centre, which were not extended/renewed due to this site being closed. Taking this into consideration the annual turnover rate would have been around 10.58% if these positions were extended as per the case in previous years. *(turnover rate between 8% and 12% considered the industry standard)*

Cultural Awareness Program

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

Enterprise Agreements

Enterprise agreements with staff were maintained across the organisation, which supplement industrial awards and provisions relative to the terms, benefits and conditions of employment that staff have with Council.

During the reporting period, negotiations continued with the administration staff covered under the South Australian Municipal Salaried Officers Award and negotiations commenced for the outdoor workforce covered by the Local Government Employees Award.

Our People Our Safety

Our People Our Safety Work Health and Safety (WHS), Risk Management (RM) and Injury Management (IM) will always be of high importance and therefore Council will continue to invest and implement improvements in undertaking these elements. Council has reduced worker compensations claims this year by 10 percent. This reduction in claims will have a positive effect on the annual bonus rebate received from the Workers Compensation Scheme.

The Organisational Development Team and Council as a whole has continued to implement and integrate its Skytrust integrated risk management system into Council business functions providing efficiencies. Some examples of improved business functions built into

Skytrust is a Contractor and Contracts register, Document Register, Internal Audits, Playground and Workplace Inspections.

Electronic Data Management System

Council has a legislative requirement under the State Records Act 1997 to ensure that all corporate records are appropriately managed, stored and maintained. This year, over 110,000 records have been electronically captured into Council's Electronic Document Records Management System. During the 2019-2020 financial year, the State Records Council approved and subsequently released a new General Disposal Schedule (GDS 40). The records department has been busy implementing this into their electronic environment.

Gawler Civic Centre Architecture & Planning Awards

The Town of Gawler are proud and honoured to have been awarded the following in 2019/20, for the Gawler Civic Centre redevelopment project: 2019 SA Architecture Awards

- 'Public Architecture' Award (awarded to MPH Architects) 2019 Planning Institute of Australia Awards
- 'Great Place' and 'Minister's Award' for Planning Excellence SA (awarded to the Town of Gawler)

Winning the 'Great Place Award' judges described the Gawler Civic Centre Redevelopment as “a fantastic example of a great place. The redevelopment has created a civic heart that welcomes all of the community, offering both social and commercial opportunities”.

It was also a great privilege earlier this year to be awarded the '2019 SA Architecture Award for Public Architecture', submitted by MPH Architects. The National Architecture Awards is an integrated, hierarchical program resulting in annual awards at National, Chapter (State and Territory) and, in some states, Regional levels. The judges in this category stated, “The range of community and business facilities includes a gallery, reading room, research centre, business hub, library, multifunctional spaces and a social enterprise café. The adaptive reuse and sensitive integration of two State heritage listed



PIA Award Winner Presentation Evening

OUR LEADERSHIP - Key Achievements

buildings allows for the retention of the heritage fabric of the buildings, while completely re-imagining the internal spaces to provide a civic space that is contemporary and welcoming to locals and visitors to the region.”

Response to COVID-19 – Gawler Civic Centre

In response to the Federal and State Government imposed restrictions designed to limit the spread of the Coronavirus, the Gawler Civic Centre was closed for business as of midnight Wednesday 25 March 2020. This included the closure of all functional areas within the Centre including Civic Centre Library, Cultural Heritage Centre, Cultural Heritage Gallery, Youth Space, Meeting Rooms and Event Spaces. The Gawler Civic Centre remained closed to the public until Sunday 31 May 2020. During this closure the centre allowed Council to continue to operate as a staff working environment, with social distancing measures and workforce splitting in place. Six (of the ten) Town Hall Meeting Rooms were converted into temporary office accommodation for various staff. This social distancing arrangement and widespread implementation of zoom, has allowed part of the Town of Gawler workforce, now working from the Civic Centre, to continue to deliver vital traditional and new services to the Gawler community.

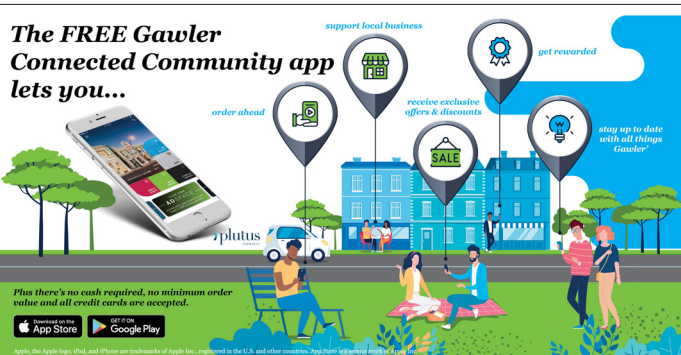
Memorandum of Understanding with Adelaide Plains Council continues to share casual Library staff with Adelaide Plains Council, as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) first established in 2007.

Clonlea Dog Park – Licence Agreement

The Town of Galwer and the Light Regional Council have entered into an agreement to recognise the shared benefits to residents of Hewitt for their use of the Clonlea Reserve Dog Park which is annually reviewed. This provides for a contribution towards the operations required to maintain the space at an acceptable community service standard.

Effectiveness and Efficiency Program

Staff have placed an ongoing focus for a number of years on investigating operational efficiencies across the myriad of services provided by Council, together with identifying potential cost savings and/or additional revenue streams. Focus has also been directed at identifying areas of improvement regarding services and/or project delivery



Gawler Connected Community app

relative to quality, quantity and time and cost of service outputs.

In addition to this, the Administration has also placed ongoing focus and dedicated staff resources regarding the seeking of external grant funding opportunities towards various capital or new initiative projects being undertaken by Council. Effective from September 2019, Council administration created a new dedicated Business Improvement Analyst position to robustly and systematically build on the extensive efficiency and effectiveness work undertaken to date. This initiative is now being further supplemented with additional internal audit and/or financial analysis reviews with tailored programs currently being developed.

Digital Transformation of Council Business

By taking advantage of the unprecedented pace of technological progress, access to real time data and implementation of smart technology, Council has continued to progressed its increase in utilisation of infrastructure, invest in clean energy and energy efficiency, improve services to the community and better benchmark its performance against other local governments. With further uptake of technology such as smart phones in Australia, combined with access to and use of data across the public and private sector, it represents an enormous resource for innovation, service improvement and efficient use of infrastructure in Gawler.

Under the National Innovation and Science Agenda, the Australian Government is releasing more non-sensitive public data for private sector innovation, and is using this data to improve service delivery and to inform policy. The Australian Government is seeking to work across state and local governments to encourage greater access and use of anonymised, machine readable data that will help make government more citizen-focused and stimulate innovation in service delivery.

Thanks in part to funding from the Australian Government’s Smart Cities and Suburbs Program, Council was able to deliver the “Connected Community” project. Developed by Plutus Commerce, and the first of its kind in Australia, the “Gawler Connected Community App” enables customers to engage with Council, local business and the community. Available from the App Store and Google Play on smart devices from 16 February 2020 and officially launched at the Gawler Fringe Opening Event, this platform is driving and manage Council’s free public WiFi system and is available as an App via the internet for free download.

The success of the Connected Community platform will come from local business engagement and the delivery of free Wi-Fi within Gawler. Council has invested in Wi-Fi access points throughout Murray Street and surrounding precincts including Gawler Central Station, Clonlea Reserve (Skate Park) and Apex Park. With the

OUR LEADERSHIP - Key Achievements

implementation of community safety upgrades funded by the Australian Government’s Safer Communities Program, this network will be expanding to incorporate Pioneer Park and Clonlea Reserve (Dog Park).

ArcGIS Spatial Technology

Council has responded to the growing need to provide mapping services by implementing a new Geographical Information System (GIS). Developments in technology and a growing need from the community for increased mobile services have allowed Council to improve customer interaction and increase the accessibility of information. The implementation of Esri’s ArcGIS solution will allow staff to use smart maps and visualisation tools to perform tasks such as asset tracking, 3D modelling, improve crisis response and increase data transparency and community interaction through public facing interactive and informative maps.

Barossa Regional Procurement Group

The Barossa Regional Procurement Group is an alliance between the Town of Gawler, The Barossa Council, Mid Murray Council, Light Regional Council and the Adelaide Plains Council. The aim of the Group is to improve internal procurement practices, create efficiencies and reduce the burden on suppliers through standardisation of procurement documentation, reduction of risk to Councils through central management of licencing and insurance requirements, and deliver potential cost and efficiency savings for all member Councils. The Barossa Regional Procurement Group achieved these aims through the tender process of five tenders this financial year.

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The aim of the DAIP is to improve access for all and increase the number of opportunities for people with disability that live, work, play, volunteer and visit Gawler. The DAIP includes two main components:

- The Barossa, Light and Lower North Regional Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (developed in collaboration with the Barossa Council, Light Regional Council and Adelaide Plains Council); and
- The Town of Gawler Disability Access and Inclusion Action Plan.

The Town of Gawler Disability Access and Inclusion Action Plan aims to ensure that our community becomes more accessible and inclusive of people living with disability. It will help people within the community that are living with a disability to contribute to the Town and feel welcome, have access to services, visit local businesses and open public spaces, and participate in everyday activities.

Traffic and Parking

Council’s Community Safety Officers are responsive to parking complaints within the Gawler Township and outer suburban areas. During the previous year, records indicate that staff have investigated 267 reported parking

issues. This has led to solutions which have included improvements to line marking and traffic controls, and increased monitoring in congested areas such as school zones and busy shopping areas.

Time limits in some key Council car parks was also increased from three hours in response to time restrictions being implemented in some key private car parking areas. Community Safety Officers continued to patrol the main shopping areas within the Gawler business district, servicing our contracted private car parking areas to encourage the turnover of parking spaces for customers supporting our local businesses.

Arboriculture Review

An Arboriculture Review was undertaken of its operations in accordance with Council’s direction at its 11 April 2017 Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee Meeting. This review was completed in 2019/20 following extensive reviews and business system improvements associated with new land division maintenance management and land development open space assessment processes.

By-Laws

Section 246 of the Local Government Act 1999 confers powers to Council, subject to this or another Act, to make By-Laws. Council has a general power to make By-Laws for the good rule and government of the area, and for the convenience, comfort and safety of its community. Council undertook a review of its By-Laws in 2019/2020 and following significant consultation enacted its By-laws on 2 January 2020. Council currently has five By-Laws governing various activities in its Council area:

1. By Law No.1 - of 2019 Permits and Penalties
2. By Law No.2 - of 2019 Moveable Signs
3. By Law No.3 - of 2019 Roads
4. By Law No.4 - of 2019 Local Government Land
5. By Law No.5 - of 2019 Dogs
6. By Law No.6 - of 2019 Cats – Deferred to a later date

Building Inspections

All mandatory stages of building construction are subject to Council building inspections. The mandated inspection targets are 66% for licensed builders, 90% for owner builders and 100% of all new swimming pools. On notification of completed works, Council inspected 70% of licensed builders, 100% of owner builders and 100% of all pool notifications.

Building Fire Safety Committee

Council’s Building Fire Safety Committee held four meetings this year, above the mandatory three meetings required in accordance with the Development Act 1993. A total of 14 Building Fire Safety compliance inspections were conducted on commercial premises within Gawler, an increase of five the previous year.