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## Council adopt Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan

Town of Gawler Council Members voted unanimously at the December Council meeting to adopt the Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan in principle, with the provision of an estimated costing for the project to be presented to the March 2020 Corporate & Community Services Committee meeting.

Karbeethan Reserve, located between Angle Vale and Hiller Roads in Evanston Gardens provides the community with a ten hectare open space reserve for structured sport and active recreation activities. The reserve is the home to local sporting organisations – Gawler & District Softball Association, Gawler Eagles FC, Gawler Rangers Baseball Club and Riverside Cricket Club.

Council commenced the development of a Master Plan for Karbeethan Reserve in 2018 with the aim to develop Karbeethan Reserve as Regional Level Sporting Precinct for the current and future Gawler community. The Master Plan addresses both immediate issues experienced by current users, including the increasing utilisation of the facilities from club and association growth, in particular across female sporting participation, as well as planning for the future of the precinct through the reserve's expansion.

The Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan has been developed with significant levels of community and stakeholder consultation occurring during the 18 month project. The Master Plan 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. Contemporary non-sporting infrastructure such as universal designed change rooms and club rooms have been included within the Master Plan. The Master Plan also importantly includes a range of community recreational offerings with walking and running tracks, half-court basketball, play spaces and seating across the reserve.

Mayor Karen Redman commented, "Sport and recreation is known to improve mental and physical health and social development. Recreation facilities are effective in reducing rates of obesity, lack of fitness and chronic illness. Council has identified that the current facilities at Karbeethan Reserve are insufficient to cater for the current and projected needs of our community. The development of the Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan has focused on producing a well-designed functional and attractive sporting precinct able to be used by the broader community for sporting and recreational activities."

Mayor Redman continued, "Council is excited about this project and will continue to work strategically towards the implementation of the Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan, in particular through liaising with, and looking to partner with project stakeholders and attract external funding that will allow the Master Plans timely implementation."

A further report on the Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan will be presented to the March 10<sup>th</sup> Corporate & Community Services committee meeting.

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