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## **Gawler Civic Centre Achieves Practical Completion**

A significant milestone in the redevelopment of the Gawler Civic Centre was accomplished on 18 December 2018 as Badge Constructions officially handed the facility back to Council as Practical Completion was achieved.

“Just over 20 months of demolition, extensive remediation and construction, and final commissioning have resulted in what we believe is a spectacular result for Gawler and the wider community,” said Mayor Redman. “It’s very exciting to see Council’s vision for the Centre come to life and the transformation that has occurred since construction started.”

While the main construction has finished there are still finishing touches required before the community can have access to the Centre. Minor defects such as scratches, chips and incomplete painting are to be expected with any construction project. These defects are to be rectified by Badge Constructions prior to Council Staff starting the moving-in process. From 18 December 2018 to 20 January 2019 Badge Constructions will be undertaking the defect rectification works.

“Defect rectification is common practice with any construction project,” said Mayor Redman. “It is best for this work to occur prior to Council’s Operations moving-in to the facility as undertaking the works concurrently with moving in prolongs the time required to undertake the defects as rectification and moving-in schedules are complex to efficiently align.”

The allocated timeframe provides for the Christmas Shutdown period and allows sufficient time for Badge Constructions to rectify defects with unrestricted access, prior to Council Staff moving items into the facility. It also protects Council from liability for defects that may be claimed as occurring as a consequence of moving-in to the facility, if the two processes were to occur concurrently.

Monday 21 January 2019 is the first day for Council Operations to start moving in to the Gawler Civic Centre. Library Staff will be working on unpacking collections and shelving items. Red Centre Enterprises will start fitting out the café with fridges, dishwashers, ovens and other equipment. The Gawler Heritage Collection will start to return from external storage facilities. Tables, chairs, staging, lighting and audio visual equipment will be arriving for the Institute. Council’s new conference microphone system will be delivered and commissioned. Equipment will be arriving for the Youth Space and Business Innovation Hub. Council’s Information and Communications Technology Team will be setting up computers, network connectivity, printers and phones. There is a lot to be done prior to opening the doors to the public.

Safely moving-in to the facility and ensuring that Council Staff have been trained in the Centre’s functional operations (emergency procedures, alarm systems, airconditioning, etc...) will take a minimum of 3 weeks. Some areas of the Centre will take longer due to the volume of items to be relocated, catalogued and stored.

“Council is pleased to announce that the Gawler Civic Centre will be open to the public from Monday 11 February 2019 with the Library, Café, Business Innovation Hub, Youth Space and Town Hall Meeting rooms all anticipated to be operating,” said Mayor Redman. “The Institute’s multi-function spaces will be available for hire from 1 March 2019 with Council’s first meeting to be held in the new Chambers on Tuesday 26 February 2019.”

The Cultural Heritage Centre will be the last area of the Centre to open on Sunday 7 April 2019 as part of the seven-day Gawler Civic Centre Opening Festival. Starting with a Street Party and an open invitation for everyone to discover the Centre, the Opening Festival is a week of programmed activity that will showcase each functional area within the Civic Centre.



“Redeveloping the Institute and Town Hall Buildings to create a Civic Centre was discussed by Council and the Gawler community 50 years ago, unfortunately the idea never gained traction,” said Mayor Redman. “Over time the two buildings were not well maintained and this ultimately led to Council needing to prioritise the redevelopment and source the necessary funds to deliver the project.”

Council has resolved at its meeting on 18 December 2018 to continue to retain the adjusted contingency amount as confidential. The original trigger for all associated financial details to be made public are when the project reaches Practical Completion. Given the status of ongoing negotiations between Council and the builder it has been decided to retain this information in confidence until the project now reaches final financial completion which is expected late February 2019.

“I am personally thrilled that Council has achieved what it has for Gawler and the wider region by investing in this project,” continued Mayor Redman, “and I can’t wait to open the doors, welcome everyone inside and give these iconic buildings back to the community.”

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