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Council Prioritise Aquatic Facility and Karbeethan Reserve

Council reaffirmed a Regional Aquatic facility and Karbeethan Reserve as its two highest priority 'Iconic Projects' at this week's Council meeting.

The two projects given key priority billing in Council's '2019 Gawler Invest Prospectus' are:

- The development of a modern Regional Aquatic, Health and Leisure Centre, incorporating both indoor and outdoor swimming facilities and a direct connection to a level of shared services with the Gawler & District Tennis Association courts.
- The upgrade and development of the 9.96 hectare Karbeethan Reserve sporting precinct located on Angle Vale Road in Evanston Gardens.

The Prospectus will immediately be utilised to inform candidates in the local Federal Division of Spence of Council's key strategic priorities ahead of next month's election.

"Council has undertaken a needs and feasibility analysis, identifying concepts for delivering this regional aquatic facility", Mayor Redman commented. "With the ongoing popularity of our outdoor centre and the continued growth in the town and region, the demand for an upgraded modern, all year round centre is growing."

"While the vision is to develop a regional community aquatic facility, Council continues to remain strongly committed to our current Gawler Aquatic Centre, a facility that is providing an amazing service to our community, through our dedicated Aquatic and Recreation team."

"I am excited to be able to announce that Council has been successful in obtaining \$409,445 of funding through the Sport Aus Community Sport Infrastructure Program. This funding, along with \$160,000 from Council will deliver upgraded toilet and change room facilities for the 60,000 community members that visit the centre every season."

"Council has invested in excess of a million dollars in recent years to ensure that the pool structure is maintained, the water is crystal clear and nice and warm. This has been mostly behind the scene works and it is now great to be able to upgrade the amenities at the centre and provide an improved all round experience for visitors."

Karbeethan Reserve is currently utilised for competitive baseball, cricket, soccer and softball, with the open space also heavily utilised for unstructured active recreational pursuits.

Peter Broelman, secretary of the Gawler Eagles FC soccer club who's home ground is at Karbeethan Reserve said "Gawler Eagles FC is bursting at the seams with junior soccer players, boys and girls. Long-term investment is required to keep our local kids healthy and active and to ensure that the Gawler community benefits for generations to come. Gawler Eagles FC is in for the long haul and building community is a cornerstone to keeping our kids local and encourage them to be proud to represent Gawler".

This is a statement which is also echoed by the Gawler and District Tennis Association. President Rebecca Leo said, "The Gawler & District Tennis Association would be grateful for funding/support as the future and viability of the facility depends on it. It's also great to be recognised and priority

placed on the future of sport and recreation in Gawler. Collaboration between sporting bodies within the area is important.”

Council is currently developing a Master Plan for Karbeethan Reserve that will provide a coordinated and strategic approach to the future redevelopment of the Reserve, with the aim of producing a well-designed functional and attractive sporting precinct that is used regularly by the community for sporting and recreational activities.

It is envisaged that the Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan will be implemented in a number of stages, with the initial redevelopment to occur within the sites existing footprint, while future stages include expansion of the Reserve. Stage one of the project is estimated at costing between \$10-\$15m depending on the final composition.

Mayor Redman commented, “The attracting of strategic external funding is a key to the 2019 Gawler Invest Prospectus and the identified Iconic Projects. Council is strategically planning for the long term vision of a Regional Aquatic Facility and Karbeethan Reserve and will continue to be proactive in seeking funding partners to deliver these significant community infrastructure projects. Funding partners including Federal and State Government, State and local based sporting associations and private sector investors will be approached to help deliver these much anticipated regional community facilities. ”

‘Karbeethan Reserve provides Council with an exciting opportunity to deliver high standard sporting and recreational infrastructure for our community”, Mayor Redman continued. “There has been a significant amount of interest in this project during the development of and consultation on the draft Master Plan and I look forward to Council working with the sporting organisations and the broader community to implement the Master Plan once it is finalised and adopted by Council.”

The outcome of the recent community consultation on the draft Karbeethan Reserve Master Plan is scheduled to be presented to Council next month. The significant amount of community feedback will be considered by Council, with the final Master Plan then brought back before Council for adoption thereafter.



Pictured L-R is: Gawler & District Tennis Association President, Rebecca Leo, Gawler Eagles Secretary, Peter Broelman, and Mayor Karen Redman

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