



MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WALKERVILLE

File number: 40.103.1.2

Please quote ref: OLT202363427

Contact officer: Ross Oates (Strategic Projects Coordinator)

30 November 2023

Dear Ratepayer,

Re: Major Community Projects

I write to inform you of Council's future direction on three Major Community Projects:

- Walkerville Bowling & Community Club;
- 39 Smith Street Recreation Centre; and
- Walkerville Sports Club.

It has been one full year since this Council was elected and during this time, these projects have been our focus. From reviewing the history and investigating the sites, to meeting with surrounding residents, sports club representatives, architects and financial planners – we have undertaken an extensive process to understand the full picture and to determine the most responsible way forward.

The delivery of these projects has been on Council's agenda for a number of years and a major hurdle has been affordability. The vulnerability of the building industry and Council's current Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) have limited our ability to progress as originally planned. Consequently, Council has scrutinised its LTFP, the scope and delivery schedule for each project and the way in which Council engages with the community in relation to these projects.

As residents of the area who have all had some involvement with the above sites and associated clubs – Council Members appreciate the importance of responsibly delivering these projects in a collaborative and timely manner. This means that we are embarking on a new way forward.

On Monday night, 27 November 2023, Council held a Special Meeting to make a decision on its Major Projects. Council Members unanimously supported:

- A new build for the Walkerville Bowling & Community Club building;
- New Walkerville Oval lighting, tennis courts and cricket practice nets;
- Going to market to investigate both a 'refurbishment' option and a 'new build' option for the 39 Smith Street Recreation Centre; and
- A renovation for the Walkerville Sports Club building.

The Corporation of the Town of Walkerville

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Each project is subject to consent from the State Government – as a result of changes to the original scope – due to the \$9 million of external grant funding involved. Now that Council has formally resolved a more responsible and sustainable way forward, we are seeking the necessary approvals.

Once all necessary approvals have been received, Council will proceed with a Request for Tender for the new build of the Walkerville Bowling & Community Club, as well as new oval lighting, tennis courts and cricket nets. A Request for Proposal for the 39 Smith Street Recreation Centre – for both a ‘refurbishment’ and ‘new build’ – will be undertaken to determine where the market currently stands on costings for each option. The renovation of the Walkerville Sports Club building will be deferred approximately 12-18 months in order to ensure sufficient time to complete the design work and for the project to become ‘shovel ready’.

In addition, it is Council’s intention to establish a Walkerville Sports Club Design Committee to assist in the design and redevelopment of the Sports Club. It is envisioned this Committee will include representatives from Council, sports clubs and community – to ensure a variety of voices shape the outcome of this exciting project.

It is Council’s aim to ensure the community is fully on board throughout this process and is informed on a regular basis. This means that key milestones for each project will be communicated in the most appropriate and time sensitive manner. We have endorsed an engagement strategy to ensure residents, ratepayers, businesses, sports clubs, community groups and the State Government are involved and included throughout the process of developing these three key community hubs within the Township. Part of this strategy includes a new webpage to host all Major Project updates, which will be made live on Council’s website – www.walkerville.sa.gov.au – in the coming weeks.

I look forward to keeping you updated on our Major Projects journey. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself or one of our Council Members.

Yours sincerely,



Melissa Jones
Mayor of Walkerville