**EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:00AM THURSDAY 29 MAY 2025**

NEW XAVIER COLLEGE CAMPUS **AND COMMUNITY SPORTS FACILITY ANNOUNCED FOR RIVERLEA PARK UNDER LANDMARK AGREEMENT**

Historic long-term agreements between Walker Corporation, Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) and the City of Playford will deliver a district-level community sports facility in the growing Riverlea neighbourhood, anchored by a new state-of-the-art Catholic school.

Due to open in January 2027, Xavier College Riverlea Park in Adelaide’s north, will be the first school to be built in Riverlea, the masterplanned residential community by Walker, with construction expected to commence later this year.

Xavier College Riverlea Park will initially cater for students from Reception to Year 6, progressively growing to provide a full academic pathway through to Year 12. A dedicated Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) space is incorporated into the Stage 1 build, while a co-located Early Learning Centre (ELC) will provide care for children from 6 weeks of age to 5 years, on the school site.

The $60 Million Stage 1 build of Xavier College Riverlea Park will feature a three-storey building with centralised communal spaces which flow through to dynamic learning environments and cutting-edge facilities, including dedicated science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) “Maker” spaces, multimedia studios, and a food technology centre.

Features of Xavier College Riverlea Park include:

* A Sacred Space used for school and community gatherings to foster meaningful faith-inspired connections
* 300 square metres of landscaping which pays respect to First Nations people with the inclusion of a cultural trail, yarning circles and nature play
* Extensive school hour access to the neighbouring district level sporting facilities
* A rooftop garden fully integrated into the campus’ Food Technology Program
* Green energy efficient building design

Under a shared use agreement, Xavier College students and the wider community will share access to a district-level sportsground, including soccer pitches, multi-sport oval and other recreational amenities and in time, a gymnasium located on the school site. The campus and community hub will operate across a 15-hectare site, providing learning, recreation and connection opportunities for Riverlea Park and the surrounding suburbs.

The education and sport facilities will be co-delivered by CESA and Walker Corporation as part of a wider partnership, with the district sportsgrounds to be managed by the City of Playford through its Sportsgrounds Community Land Management Plan (CLMP).

The signing of the agreements marks a significant milestone in the project following extensive collaboration between the three parties and a community consultation phase.

**Dr Neil McGoran, Executive Director, Catholic Education South Australia** said:

“We are delighted to announce the new Catholic school at Riverlea Park will be a campus of Xavier College, making it our 120th campus in South Australia.

“Xavier College Riverlea Park is part of our commitment to expanding Catholic Education pathways and building an even stronger focus on student learning and quality teaching.

“Our partnership with the City of Playford and Walker Corporation provides shared access to district-level recreational and sports facilities that will benefit the whole community. With 40,000 people calling Riverlea home in the future, we are honoured to be delivering the first school in this founding community.”

**David Gallant, Managing Director and CEO, Walker Corporation** said:

“Delivering quality education and well-designed sporting and community facilities is a core component of Walker Corporation’s masterplanned vision for Riverlea and we are excited to partner with Catholic Education South Australia and the City of Playford to deliver this major milestone for the community.”

“Xavier College Riverlea Park will provide families in Riverlea and neighbouring suburbs with access to high-quality education, offering a continuous learning pathway from early years through to Year 12.”

**Mayor Glenn Docherty, Mayor, City of Playford** said:

“This is a fantastic result for our community and a strong example of what can be achieved through strong partnerships. By working together with Walker and CESA, Council is delivering real outcomes for families in the north.”

“Strategic partnerships like this are essential to supporting our growing community. Formalising a shared use agreement with CESA means we can deliver quality sporting facilities that are accessible to the community, delivered sooner, and are cost-effective for Council.”

“Council is not just responding to growth, but anticipating it. We’re thinking ahead, and doing the groundwork to ensure our community has the sport and recreation infrastructure it needs now and into the future.

**Riverlea resident** Bonnie Skeers said:

“It’s fantastic knowing that by the time our kids are ready for school, they’ll have access to great education right here in Riverlea.”

Xavier College will be hosting Community Information Sessions at Riverlea in June where families can find out more about the campus. To register for these events, visit: [www.xavier.catholic.edu.au/riverlea-park/events](http://www.xavier.catholic.edu.au/riverlea-park/events)

Enrolment applications to the new campus are now being accepted. To apply or for more information visit: [www.xavier.catholic.edu.au/riverlea-park](http://www.xavier.catholic.edu.au/riverlea-park) or contact: 08 8521 4500.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editor**

**About CESA**

Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) has 101 schools across the state, with 14 in the Diocese of Port Pirie and an additional five in rural and regional locations. It educates more than 54,800 students and employs more than 9,500 people.

The first Catholic school, located in Pirie Street, Adelaide was established in late 1844 by Bishop Francis Murphy with the vision to enable every child across the state to have access to high-quality Catholic education. 180 years on CESA remains committed to accessibility and affordability.

For more information visit: [www.cesa.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/)

**About Xavier College**

Xavier College has built a strong reputation in Adelaide’s north in the 30 years since its opening in Gawler in 1995. In addition to the Gawler Belt Campus (Years 7-12), the co-educational College’s Evanston Campus offers primary education from Reception – Year 6 and the Two Wells Campus from Reception – Year 10 (expanding to Year 12 by 2027).

Xavier College Riverlea Park will be the fourth campus for the College.

**About Walker Corporation**

Walker are one of Australia’s leading private, diversified property companies with over 50 years of placemaking experience. They have a reputation of transforming challenging projects into extraordinary places, delivering outstanding quality for people and communities.

For close to 20 years, Walker has committed to investing in South Australia, driving the state’s long-term growth and prosperity through the delivery of high-quality commercial towers and masterplanned communities.

Over the next two decades, Riverlea by Walker will transform the northern suburbs of Adelaide into a vibrant new suburb surrounded by parks, lakes, recreational facilities, schools, healthcare, supermarkets and specialty retail, just 25 minutes' drive from the Adelaide CBD.

**About City of Playford**

Covering 350 square kilometres, the City of Playford is located about 30 kilometres north of Adelaide. Home to more than 110,000 people, Playford is leading residential growth in South Australia, with 10 residents moving to the region every day. Playford is a diverse and evolving community where Council is focused on managing growth in a smart, sustainable way. From roads and parks to services and community infrastructure, Council is making decisions now to ensure the city grows well — with the right foundations to support both current and future residents.

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