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## **Town of Gawler Boundary Reform Proposal Proceeds to Stage 3**

The South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission (Commission) has determined that the Town of Gawler's General Proposal for Boundary Change has merit and warrants further investigation. At the 23 August Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to accept the cost estimate of \$379,500 (excl. GST) provided by the Commission for Stage 3 of the process being the independent inquiry/investigation. Assuming the Commission can secure an investigation team within the cost estimate amount, the independent investigation will go ahead in 2023.

"Council is seeking boundary reform for Gawler to provide greater opportunity in terms of coordinating urban growth for the region but also to embrace and provide for the Gawler community now and into the future," CEO Henry Inat said.

"Boundary reform is a key step in ensuring the greater Gawler community can leverage representation at the Local Government level, giving them a voice in shaping the future of the community and facilities they already share with Gawler residents."

Mayor Karen Redman, said, "Gawler is one of the fastest-growing local government areas in South Australia and serves as the major service centre for the lower mid-north. Council's strategic pursuit of boundary reform is about being more efficient in the delivery of Council services and community infrastructure. We must ensure we're prepared for the pressures that accompany rapid population growth, including increased demand on infrastructure and services."

The Stage 3 Investigation into Town of Gawler's General Proposal, which is required to be funded by the initiating Council, will commence in 2023 concentrating initially on the technical aspects of the Proposal and then progressing to the Community Consultation phase.

Once the investigation is completed, the Commission will prepare a report to the Minister for review and determination. Any changes to the local government boundaries deemed appropriate by the Minister will then be gazetted.

"The Commission undertakes a fully independent investigation, which includes engagement with all affected Communities and Councils. It is important that the community have an opportunity to have their say on boundary reform," Mayor Redman said.

"Council's proposal is not about putting other council areas at an economic disadvantage. It is about recognising that we are one community and exploring this opportunity to be more efficient and facilitate greater investment and jobs for the region. I look forward to hearing the outcomes of the investigation next year."

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**ENDS**

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