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Town of Gawler Boundary Reform Update

The greater Gawler area is estimated to increase in population from its current size of more than 23,500 to up to 60,000 by 2040. Gawler currently provides facilities and services to an estimated 110,000 people living beyond the Town of Gawler council area.

Council submitted a Stage 1 Proposal for Boundary Change to the South Australian Boundaries Commission (Commission) in December 2019 requesting significant changes to Town of Gawler's boundaries with the intent of uniting the current and future Communities of Interest that comprise our true Gawler community.

The Commission reviewed the Stage 1 Proposal and provided Council with the green light to proceed with the development and submission of a Stage 2 Proposal. Importantly, when responding to the Stage 1 Proposal, the Commission acknowledged the significant work that Council undertook to develop its potential proposal, including the details of the Community of Interest and consideration of the guiding principles for boundary change and how these relate to the identified areas. It also noted the important role that the Council plays in providing services to a developing and expanding region and the potential significance of this proposal for the region.

Council is now proceeding to the first Community Consultation phase in the boundary change process in line with the Boundary Change Proposal Guidelines.

"Key to moving forward with Council's boundary change proposal is consultation with our community," said Mayor Redman. "It's important for us to understand where people feel connected to, what community means to them and whether they agree with the idea that, from a community, social, economic and environmental perspective, changing Gawler's boundaries just makes good sense."

Town of Gawler's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Henry Inat, said, "Gawler is one of the fastest growing local government areas in South Australia and the major service centre for the lower mid-north. We must make sure we're prepared for the pressures that accompany rapid population growth, including increased demand on infrastructure and services."

"Council's proposed boundary realignment is about making sensible decisions, being more efficient in the delivery of services such as managing parks and open spaces, roads and waste collection, and delivering sustainable business practices," continued Mr Inat.

"The time is right for Council to talk about boundary reform for Gawler, both in terms of coordinated urban growth for the region and so we can maintain our town, steeped in rich South Australian and local history," said Mayor Redman.

"Boundary reform will embrace communities where there is already a natural association with our town," continued Mayor Redman. "Council's proposal is not about putting other council areas at economic disadvantage. It is about being recognising that we are one community and leveraging this to be more efficient and facilitate greater investment and jobs for the region."

Public Consultation will be conducted **from late August to early October 2020**, including a community survey and community forum. More information regarding this consultation will be advertised within local newspapers and via Council's media channels soon. Interested people can find more information about the Boundary Change Proposal and stay connected with the future consultation process via Council's website <https://www.gawler.sa.gov.au/your-council/boundary-reform>.

Town of Gawler Official Media Release

Gawler



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