

Ms Karen Redman  
Mayor  
Town of Gawler  
PO Box 130  
Gawler SA 5118

## **Notification of stage 1 potential boundary proposal**

Dear Mayor Redman

Thank you for your letter of 3 December 2020 outlining the potential proposal for a boundary change from the Town of Gawler (the Council), as required by the Boundaries Commission's (the Commission's) Guideline 3 — Submitting a General Proposal to the Commission.

As you are aware, the intent of the two-stage requirement under Guideline 3 is to enable the Commission to provide advice it considers relevant to a potential general proposal before extensive work is done to fully-develop the proposal.

This advice may assist councils in a decision to proceed to refer a general proposal to the Commission (Stage 2), and also to ensure that matters that the Commission considers important to the proposal are fully covered in this Stage.

At its meeting on 20 January 2020, the Commission considered the Council's Potential Proposal along with all correspondence received in relation to the potential proposal.

The Commission agreed that the Council may refer a general proposal for the Commission's consideration if it wishes to do so. Please note that advice from the Commission that a general proposal can be submitted does not guarantee that the proposal will be formally accepted.

When discussing potential proposals, the Commission gives close consideration to the principles contained under section 26 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act). These principles are of fundamental importance to boundary change proposals and ultimately form the basis of any recommendation that the Commission may make to the Minister. It is for this reason that the Commission's Guidelines require prospective initiators to consider these principles at the outset of a potential proposal.

The Commission notes the significant work that the Council has undertaken to develop its potential proposal, including the details of the Community of Interest and consideration of the section 26 principles and how these relate to the identified areas.

The Commission noted the important role that the Council plays in providing services to a developing and expanding region and noted the potential significance of this proposal for the region.

Due to the significant scope of this potential proposal, I bring your attention to Section 30 of the Act and Guideline 2 which outline a simplified pathway for consideration of boundary change proposals that are minor administrative matters. The Council may wish to consider the

option of referring an Administrative proposal to the Commission where proposed boundary changes are minor administrative matters.

As set out in stage 2 of Guideline 3, if the Council wishes to refer a general proposal to the Commission, the Commission recommends that the Council strongly identify how the proposal links to the Section 26 principles. More specifically, the Council may wish to identify the cultural, heritage, shopping, community services, sporting or any other component that the Council identifies that in the Council's view form the social fabric of the area, for each discrete boundary change that the Council may propose.

The proposal should also include evidence of the consultation process undertaken by the Council with the community and key stakeholders in relation to the proposal. Although the Commission will undertake its own consultation if it decides to investigate a proposal, it is expected that the Council would undertake consultation with identified stakeholders and the community more widely.

As set out in Guideline 3, councils are required to—

- Provide a balanced representation of the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal
- Identify stakeholder groups, providing details of the interests and identity of each.
- Discuss impacts of the proposal on each group, and record any significant opposition known to the applicant council or councils and the basis of this.

The Commission is aware that the Council has received correspondence from the Light Regional Council and businesses in opposition to the proposal. Details of this correspondence and any other significant opposition known to the Council should be included in the Council's proposal along with information about the support for the proposal.

If the Council refers a general proposal to the Commission, the Commission will assess the proposal in accordance with the Act and guidelines and determine whether to inquire into the proposal or to refuse to.

If the Commission determines to investigate the proposal, the Commission will inform the Council of its decision. In accordance with Guideline 4, information will also be provided on the estimated costs of the investigations, so that the Council can make a final decision whether or not to proceed to the investigations stage. Please note, due to the significance and scale of the potential boundary changes it is expected that the cost of the investigation may not be insignificant.

As set out in Guideline 9, I have notified the councils affected by the potential proposal that the Commission has agreed that the Council may refer a general proposal if the Council wishes to do so.

I also advise that, under the Commission's publication policy, the information about the potential proposal has been made available at—

[www.dpti.sa.gov.au/local\\_govt/boundary\\_changes](http://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/local_govt/boundary_changes)



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Tel (08) 7109 7145  
DPTI.BoundariesCommission@sa.gov.au

I trust that this information is of assistance to you. If you have further questions, please contact Mr Thomas Rossini in the Office of Local Government on 7109 7443, or [thomas.rossini@sa.gov.au](mailto:thomas.rossini@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Green'.

**Bruce Green**  
Chair, SA Local Government Boundaries Commission

10 February 2020