

Inquiry into Town of Gawler Boundary Change Proposal now underway

The South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission has begun an Inquiry into proposed changes to the Town of Gawler's council boundaries.

The Town of Gawler has submitted a proposal to the Commission to expand its council boundaries to take in areas currently within the Light Regional Council, The Barossa Council and the City of Playford.

Following an open tender and thorough evaluation process, the Commission has provided a cost estimate to the Town of Gawler. The Town of Gawler will pay for the Inquiry and has agreed that the Inquiry should proceed. The Inquiry is expected to cost \$180,000 subject to any further work required as identified by the Commission

BDO Australia has been appointed as the Investigator for the proposal and will begin work in early 2024 to provide a report to the Commission to enable it to make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government on whether the council boundary changes should proceed as the Town of Gawler has proposed.

This work will include the development and delivery of an Engagement Plan that will ensure that local communities, affected councils, landowners and all parties with an interest in the future of this growing area can be well-informed as the Inquiry proceeds, and make their views known on any potential change.

The Commission, an independent body, must consider all proposals for changes to council boundaries.

Further information about the Commission and its work, including all background information for this inquiry, can be found at: <https://www.dit.sa.gov.au/local-government/boundaries-commission> or by contacting the Commission at boundaries.commission@sa.gov.au or on 08 7133 1311.

Quotes

Attributable to the Commission Presiding Member, Rob Donaldson

The Commission understands the importance of this inquiry – where the Town of Gawler's boundary should be located has been discussed and debated for the past thirty years, as areas immediately to the north of Adelaide have seen rapid growth and significant change.

While the Inquiry is now underway, there is significant work needed to ensure that the Commission has all the information and community feedback it needs to make a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government on whether the proposed change to the Town of Gawler's boundary should be made or not.

I emphasise that the Commission is an independent body that will make its call based on all of the information gathered through the inquiry and what it hears from local communities and stakeholders.

The Commission is committed to providing the Minister for Local Government with recommendations that will enable the best possible future for communities in and around the Town of Gawler, City of Playford, The Barossa Council and Light Regional Council.