

29 July 2022

Mayor Jill Whittaker  
Campbelltown City Council  
PO Box 1  
CAMPBELLTOWN SA 5074

By email: [mayor@campbelltown.sa.gov.au](mailto:mayor@campbelltown.sa.gov.au)

Dear Mayor Whittaker

### **Campbelltown City Council - Stage 2 Boundary Change General Proposal**

Thank you for the Campbelltown City Council's (the Council's) Stage 2 Boundary Change General Proposal (the Proposal) submitted on 14 April 2022 and the additional information provided on 28 June 2022 for the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission's (the Commission's) consideration.

At its meeting on 20 July 2022, the Commission discussed the Proposal and the additional information provided.

When discussing a Proposal, the Commission gives close consideration to the requirements of *Guideline 3 – Submitting a Proposal to the Commission* and 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.

The Commission acknowledges the significant work that your Council has undertaken to develop this Proposal in order to address the requirements of Guideline 3 and the section 26 principles.

The Commission formed the view that the Proposal meets the requirements of Guideline 3 and generally aligns with the section 26 principles. The Commission therefore determined that an inquiry into the Proposal may proceed in accordance with Section 31 of the Act and *Guideline 4 – Investigations of General Proposals Initiated by Councils*.

I must emphasise that the Commission's determination to inquire into the Proposal does not mean that the proposal has been recommended to proceed. A recommendation to the Minister regarding this Proposal can only be made once the Commission has conducted and considered the findings of an inquiry.

Section 31(1)(b) of the Act enables the Commission to appoint one or more investigators to conduct the inquiry. It is expected that the inquiry into the Proposal will require the appointment of a number of specialised investigators, given the extensive potential impact that the proposal may have on affected councils.

The appointment of investigators will be undertaken in accordance with the Act, and with *Guideline 5 – Appointment of Investigators for General Proposals*. As s 31(2) of the Act makes clear, the Commission must seek to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that the qualifications, knowledge, expertise and experience of a particular investigator are relevant to the inquiry for which the investigator is being appointed.

Given this, an overview of the matters that the Commission is of the view should be inquired into for this proposal is attached. **The Commission invites your Council to comment on this document to assist the Commission to formulate an estimate of costs** that is as accurate as possible. Please provide any comments by **29 August 2022**.

In accordance with s 31(2)(b) of the Act, the Commission must also consult with councils affected by the proposal on the proposed appointment of investigators. While the Commission will therefore consult with your Council before formally appointing investigators, you may also wish to make comments on these appointments at this stage.

In accordance with *Guideline 8 - Costs*, the Commission's next step is to obtain a cost estimate for the inquiry. It is anticipated that this will be provided for the Council's consideration following the conclusion of the 2022 periodic local government elections. The Commission will not proceed with the inquiry until such time as it receives a clear direction from the Council to do so, in accordance with Guideline 8.

I also note that, if the inquiry proceeds, the engagement and consultation for an inquiry will be undertaken with the engagement principles and the mandatory requirements outlined in *Guideline 9 – Engagement and Consultation*. As part of the inquiry, an engagement and communications plan will be developed which will outline how the engagement process will proceed.

I take this opportunity to emphasise that this engagement will be extensive, and involve affected councils and their communities to ensure that the Commission is fully informed of all views. Equally, it is essential that the affected communities have the opportunity to make their views known to the Commission in the context of full information about the potential impacts of the Proposal, as these are detailed through the Commission's inquiry.

As part of any inquiry the Commission or the investigator(s) may request additional information from your Council or the Adelaide Hills Council in accordance with s 32A(1) of the Act and Guideline 4. This will allow the Commission to obtain the information it believes relevant to assist in undertaking the inquiry. Your prompt cooperation with these requests is essential to the facilitation of the inquiry.

Following the completion of an inquiry, the Commission will provide a report to the Minister that will include its recommendations in regard to the Proposal.

As set out in Guideline 9, I have notified the Adelaide Hills Council that the Commission has agreed to inquire into the Proposal.

I also advise that, under the Commission's publication policy, the information about the proposal has been made available at— [www.dit.sa.gov.au/local-government/boundaries-commission](http://www.dit.sa.gov.au/local-government/boundaries-commission).

I trust that this information is of assistance to you. If you have further questions, please contact the Commission on 7109 7164 or [boundaries.commission@sa.gov.au](mailto:boundaries.commission@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Rob Donaldson

**CHAIR**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSION**

Attachment: Outline of matters to be investigated – Campbelltown City Council Boundary Change General Proposal Inquiry Plan