

5 September 2022

Mr Bim Lange  
Mayor  
The Barossa Council  
PO Box 867  
NURIOOTPA SA 5355

Dear Mayor Lange,

### **Town of Gawler Stage 2 Boundary Change General Proposal**

I write to provide your Council with an update on the Town of Gawler's (the Council) Boundary Change General Proposal (the Proposal).

As advised in November 2021, the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission (the Commission) determined that an inquiry into the Proposal may proceed in accordance with Section 31 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and *Guideline 4 – Investigations of General Proposals Initiated by Councils*.

Following this determination, the Commission provided an initial Cost Estimate of **\$379,500 ex GST (including a 15% contingency)** for the Council's consideration in April 2022, in accordance with the Commission's *Guideline 8 - Cost for General Proposals initiated by Councils*.

In considering the estimate, the Council raised concerns with the Commission regarding the potential variability of a cost estimate.

To provide the Council with a greater level of certainty in relation to the costs of an inquiry, the Commission determined that, subject to the Council's agreement to proceed on the basis of the cost estimate provided, the Commission will undertake an open tender process seeking quotes from suitably qualified consultancies to undertake the inquiry.

The Commission received confirmation from the Council on 25 August 2022 that the Council resolved to proceed with the inquiry on the basis of the cost estimate, subject to confirmation of the costs of the inquiry from the tender process.

The agreement to proceed with the inquiry is based on the Commission's determination at its meeting on 17 August 2022 that if the procurement outcome – i.e., the cost determined to undertake the inquiry as part of the procurement – does not exceed the previously advised cost estimate, the Commission will inform the Council and proceed with the inquiry.

If the procurement outcome exceeds the cost estimate, the Commission will request further confirmation from the Council as to whether or not it wishes to proceed with the inquiry. If the Council does not confirm that it wishes to proceed, the Commission may determine that it will not inquire into the proposal.

If the inquiry does proceed, it will do so in accordance with the Commission's Guidelines including the appointment of investigators, consultation and engagement with the affected councils and communities.

It is anticipated that the procurement process to obtain a quote for the inquiry will take approximately three months. The outcome of the procurement process would therefore be provided to the Council after the 2022 Local Government periodic elections.

The Commission will notify the affected Councils of the outcome of the procurement process and any subsequent decisions by the Council or the Commission in accordance with its Publications Policy. As such, information about the Proposal has been made available at — <https://www.dit.sa.gov.au/local-government/boundaries-commission>

Should you have any further queries in relation to the Proposal, please contact the Commission on 7133 1311 or [boundaries.commission@sa.gov.au](mailto:boundaries.commission@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Rob Donaldson

**CHAIR**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS COMMISSION**