

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Gawler



Contact: Mayor Karen Redman

Ref: KR:kd

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CR22/32836

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31 May 2022

Mr Rob Donaldson
Chair - SA Local Government Boundaries Commission
GPO Box 2329
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Mr Donaldson

Re: Town of Gawler Stage 2 Boundary Change General Proposal – Inquiry Cost Estimate

Council thanks the South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission (the Commission) for its correspondence dated 26 April 2022 providing the cost estimate for the inquiry into the Town of Gawler's General Proposal for Boundary Change.

Council is pleased that the Commission have advised that any Inquiry into the Town of Gawler's Boundary Change General Proposal could commence in August 2022 and notes that the Inquiry would be split into two sections to span the Local Government Periodic Elections being held in November 2022, with the Community Consultation being held over until 2023.

However, Council is concerned with the cost recovery process and legal protection for Council that is provided by the next stage of the boundary change process in regard to the procurement of appropriately qualified investigators and the cost that Council may incur through the Inquiry (Stage 3).

Council aspires to attain best practice in its procurement processes and therefore has some concerns around the process outlined by the Commission in the next phase and seeks to resolve some of its concerns prior to determining if it will proceed to fund an Inquiry.

The following concerns as detailed below allow Council to confidently move forward in its decision making with respect to funding a Stage 3 Inquiry:

- a. The Boundary Change Guidelines are public knowledge and allow the open market to identify that once Council agrees to proceed without a capped cost estimate that Council is locked in to proceed whatever the final tender result is. This is not procurement best practice and opens Council up to considerable financial risk.
- b. The cost estimate has been made public by the Commission, possibly impacting the likelihood of any significant cost saving in tenders that may be received.

- c. Whilst Council notes that the Commission has included a 15% contingency in the cost estimate provided, the amount remains an “uncapped estimate” thereby presenting Town of Gawler with a financial risk if Council resolves to proceed on that basis.

Due to the above concerns, I, along with CEO Henry Inat, formally seek a further discussion with the Commission and relevant Ministers, The Hon Geoff Brock MP, Minister for Local Government and The Hon. Nick Champion MP, Minister for Planning regarding how these concerns and risks can be mitigated. Please contact Angela Savelli, Executive Assistant to CEO & Mayor, on (08) 8522 9221 or via email at angela.savelli@gawler.sa.gov.au to arrange a suitable time.

Council thanks the Commission for its consideration of these matters.

Kind regards



Karen Redman
Mayor

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