

17 August 2022

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

By email: mayor@gawler.sa.gov.au

Dear Mayor Redman

Town of Gawler Boundary Change General Proposal – Cost Estimate

I refer to recent discussions regarding the Town of Gawler's (the Council's) Boundary Change General Proposal, and your correspondence dated 2 August 2022 in response to the Boundaries Commission's (the Commission) letter of 22 July 2022.

The Commission considered this correspondence at its meeting on 17 August 2022.

As previously outlined, the Commission has provided a cost estimate for the Proposal in accordance with *Guideline 8 - Costs for General Proposals Initiated by a Council or Councils*. The cost estimate enables the Town of Gawler as the initiating council to consider the estimated cost of an inquiry within the context of the long-term benefits to the community that may result from this proposal.

As you are aware, the Commission sought feedback from all affected Councils on the proposed Inquiry Plan to ensure that the cost estimate reflects the scope of the potential inquiry as accurately as possible. This Inquiry Plan then formed the basis of the 'Request for Information' process that the Commission used to determine the cost estimate.

While all of the required information has been provided by the Council through the initial phases and the Commission is of the view that its process has provided a sound cost estimate to assist the Council to determine whether the inquiry should proceed, the Commission also acknowledges the concerns raised by the Council regarding the ability to establish a 'fixed price' for the inquiry or guarantee that it will not exceed a certain amount.

To provide the Council with a greater level of certainty in relation to the costs of an inquiry, the Commission has determined that subject to the Council's agreement to proceed on the basis of the cost estimate of (\$379,500), it will undertake an open tender process seeking quotes from suitably qualified consultancies to undertake the inquiry and seek the Council's further agreement if the tender process outcome exceeds the cost estimate.

The inquiry would then be undertaken on the basis of the tender process outcome, based on the inquiry plan that your Council has seen and commented on. **However, there may be additional costs to undertaking the inquiry which** may arise if, during the course of the inquiry, additional matters are identified that must be inquired into to inform the Commission to provide the best possible recommendations to the Minister. While these would be managed

responsibly and in consultation with the Council, the **Town of Gawler will be responsible for meeting any additional costs,**

It is anticipated that the procurement process outlined above will take around three months. The outcomes of the procurement process would therefore be provided to the Council after the 2022 Local Government periodic elections.

If the procurement outcome – ie, quote/s to undertake the inquiry – 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 a further response 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.

I trust this information assists the Council with its deliberations on the Proposal. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact the Commission on 7109 7164 or boundaries.commission@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Donaldson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rob Donaldson

CHAIR

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSION