

26 April 2022

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

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

Dear Mayor Redman

Town of Gawler Boundary Change Proposal - Cost Estimate

I refer to your letter dated 31 January 2022 regarding the timing and cost estimate for an inquiry into the Town of Gawler's (the Council) General Boundary Change Proposal (the Proposal).

As requested by the Council, and in accordance with Guideline 8 – Cost for General Proposals initiated by Councils, the South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission (the Commission) has determined an estimate of the costs of conducting an inquiry into the Proposal.

To determine an estimate of the cost of an inquiry, the Commission undertook a wide-ranging request for information and cost estimate process in line with State Government policy to identify suitably qualified consulting firms that have the capacity to undertake a significant inquiry into the Proposal in accordance with s 31 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act). This process, together with the Inquiry Plan for the Proposal, has informed the Commission's cost estimate advice.

I can advise that the estimated cost to undertake the inquiry is \$379,500 ex GST. This estimate includes a 15% contingency for any unforeseen expenses.

Whilst the Commission has made every effort to ensure the cost estimate is as accurate as possible, it is important to emphasise that this is an estimate of the expected costs of the inquiry. The final cost of the inquiry, which will be recovered from the Council in accordance with s 32B of the Act, will be determined through an appropriate procurement process and may vary from the current estimate.

The Town of Gawler now needs to consider the cost estimate and advise the Commission whether or not it wishes the Commission to proceed with the inquiry under the Act. I would appreciate it if you could include a formal reference to the Council's decision on this matter with your response.

As noted in previous correspondence, Guideline 8 states that an initiating council's decision that an inquiry into a proposal should proceed is considered final. The Council should be aware that, once the Commission commences the inquiry under section 31, this process will be completed in accordance with that section and the relevant costs will be incurred, regardless of any subsequent decision that the Council, either as currently constituted, or as constituted following the 2022 periodic local government elections, may make.

The Commission therefore expects that the Council will give this decision careful consideration.

The Commission requests a response from the Council as to whether or not it wishes to proceed with the inquiry by Friday 24 June 2022.

If the Council decides to proceed with the inquiry, the Commission will undertake a formal procurement process to appoint suitably qualified investigators in accordance with *Guideline 5 – Appointment of Investigators*.

A copy of this correspondence has been published on the Commission's webpage.

If you have further questions, please contact Mr Peter Ilee, Executive Officer of the Commission on 7109 7164 or by email to boundaries.commission@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Rob Donaldson

CHAIR

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

Cc: Mayor Bill O'Brien, Light Regional Council
Mayor Bim Lange OAM, The Barossa Council
Mayor Glenn Docherty, City of Playford