

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

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

Dear Mayor Redman

Thank you for the Town of Gawler's (the Council) Stage 2 Boundary Change General Proposal submitted on 23 December 2020 for the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission's (the Commission's) consideration.

At its meeting on 3 March 2021, the Commission assessed the Council's Proposal against the requirements of Guideline 3 — Submitting a General Proposal to the Commission.

When discussing a proposal, the Commission gives close consideration to the requirements of Guideline 3 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.

In order to consider a General Proposal, the initiating council must address the requirements of Guideline 3 must address as far as it can be reasonably aware of them.

The Commission acknowledges the extensive and significant work that the Council has undertaken to develop this Proposal and to address the requirements of Guideline 3.

As you may have noted, Guideline 3 enables the Commission to seek additional information to assist with its decision whether or not a proposal should be investigated.

Following a detailed examination of the information provided in the Proposal, the Commission seeks further information on three elements of the Proposal to assist its consideration:

### **1. Section 26 principles, 26(c)(iii) –councils' resource base**

Guideline 3 requires councils to 'describe the proposal with reference to the principles set out in section 26 of the Act'. The Commission is seeking further information from the Council on how the Proposal addresses section 26(c)(iii) – that 'a council should have a sufficient resource base to fulfil its functions fairly, effectively and efficiently'.

The Commission notes that the Proposal includes attachments that provide a high level financial analysis of the Proposal. However, the Commission requests that the Council also provides further information on the impact of changes to affected councils' resource base along with inclusion of a summary of the financial analyses from Attachments 2 and 6, with reference to section 26(c)(iii).

## **2. Section 26 principles, 26(c)(ix) – community participation**

The Commission is also seeking further information from the Council on how the Proposal addresses section 26(c)(ix) – 'the importance within the scheme of local government to ensure that local communities within large council areas can participate effectively in decisions about local matters'.

The Proposal includes a response to this principle stated within the response to section 26(c)(x) – 'residents should receive adequate and fair representation within the local government system, while over-representation in comparison with councils of a similar size and type should be avoided'.

The Commission notes that the Proposal includes a summary of current elector and councillor numbers for the affected and similar councils for each part of the Proposal; however, does not include the Council's view on how the proposed boundary changes could impact elector numbers, and the resultant impact on this ratio.

## **3. Advantages and disadvantages**

The Proposal, read in its entirety, highlights a number of advantages and disadvantages from the proposed boundary changes in the Overview and Summary sections, information on the views held by the community and other affected Councils' views, and in the results of the community consultation work that have been included in the proposal.

However, the Commission invites the Council to provide specific comments on the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed changes, both for the Town of Gawler and all affected councils.

Should you have any further queries about the information required for the Commission to complete its assessment of the Town of Gawler's General Proposal, please contact the Office of Local Government on 7109 7164 or by email at [boundaries.commission@sa.gov.au](mailto:boundaries.commission@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Bruce Green**  
Chair, SA Local Government Boundaries Commission

26 March 2021