

9 June 2022

By email: to All Mayors and CEO's

## **SA Local Government Boundaries Commission - Update on Commission Activities**

Dear Mayor and CEO

I write to you as the new Chair of the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission (the Commission). My role on the Commission commenced on 31 January 2022.

As you are aware, the Commission is responsible for the assessment of reform proposals, overseeing investigations, and making recommendations to the Minister for Local Government on council boundary change submissions. I take this opportunity to provide a brief summary of the Commission's recent work.

### **Proposal Update**

The Commission finalised its first boundary change in October 2021 with the completion of an inquiry into a publicly initiated proposal to adjust the boundary between the City of Marion and the City of Onkaparinga in the area of Lonsdale. The boundary change was proclaimed on 28 October 2021 under sections 9 and 11 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act).

The Commission is currently considering formally submitted proposals from the Town of Gawler and the Campbelltown City Council. An inquiry into a publicly initiated proposal is also underway to consider a boundary change between the Copper Coast Council and the Barunga West Council in the area of the Tickera Township.

A full list of current proposals and related documents for information is available on the Commission's website, as per the link below:

<https://www.agd.sa.gov.au/local-government/boundaries-commission/current-proposals>

### **Guideline Amendments**

S 27(2) of the Act requires the Commission to prepare and publish guidelines for the purposes of considering boundary proposals and making recommendations to the Minister.

Accordingly, guidelines were developed in 2018 by the Local Government Grants Commission and the Office of Local Government prior to the establishment of the Boundaries Commission in January 2019. These can be amended at any time as the Commission deems necessary.

Since releasing its nine Guidelines in January 2019 the Commission has made a number of minor amendments to them to improve and clarify the Commission's processes in receiving and considering proposals.

Recent amendments to Guidelines 3, 4, 6 and 8 enable the Commission to set timeframes for the referral of a Stage 2 proposal to the Commission, and for other elements of the Commission's processes. These amendments also outline how the Commission will manage proposals that are referred to it in close proximity to local government general elections.

### **General Information**

If you have not yet familiarised yourself with the Commission's processes for Council boundary change proposals I encourage you to do so.

The Commission has recently developed an Information Paper to provide general guidance on the boundary change process and responses to frequently asked questions. The Information Paper and the Commission's Guidelines can be found using the link below.

<https://www.agd.sa.gov.au/local-government/boundaries-commission>.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you. If you have further questions, please contact the Commission on 08 7109 7164 or via email at [boundaries.commission@sa.gov.au](mailto:boundaries.commission@sa.gov.au)

Yours sincerely



Rob Donaldson

**CHAIR**

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES COMMISSION**