

Mr Bill O'Brien
Mayor
Light Regional Council
PO Box 72
KAPUNDA SA 5373

Notification of stage 1 potential boundary proposal

Dear Mayor O'Brian

Thank you for your letter of 18 May 2020 outlining the potential proposal for a boundary change from the Light Regional Council (the Council), as required by the Boundaries Commission's (the Commission's) Guideline 3 — Submitting a General Proposal to the Commission.

The intent of the two-stage requirement under Guideline 3 is to enable the Commission to provide advice it considers relevant to a potential general proposal, including whether a general proposal can be referred for the Commission's consideration before extensive work is undertaken by a proponent to fully-develop the proposal.

At its meeting on 11 June 2020, the Commission considered the Council's potential proposal along with correspondence received in relation to it.

When discussing potential proposals, the Commission gives close consideration to 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 makes to the Minister.

It is for this reason that the Commission's Guidelines require prospective initiators to consider these principles at the outset of a potential proposal.

The Commission determined that the Council's potential proposal does not easily align with the section 26 principles.

The Commission acknowledges that the Council has made reference to a number of section 26 principles. However, the Commission determined that the potential proposal does not address the broader concept of a 'community of interest' nor does it specifically identify common interests between the affected communities.

Further to this, the Commission does not believe that additional work or information from the Council at this stage would assist in the progression of this proposal, and therefore advises that a general proposal as outlined in the potential proposal cannot be referred for consideration.

The Commission noted that the key objective of the potential proposal to enhance regional productivity, regional governance and regional economics. However, the Commission is of the view that the potential proposal does not sufficiently demonstrate that link between these objectives and the boundary changes that the potential proposal outlines.

If the Council is of the view that boundary changes to the councils in the region are necessary to achieve this 'regional vision', a potential proposal must demonstrate this much more clearly, in the context of the section 26 principles.

More specifically, the Council would need to identify and demonstrate the cultural, heritage, shopping, community services, sporting or any other component that the Council identifies that in the Council's view, forms the social fabric of the affected areas.

Further to this, the Commission also expects that a potential proposal that is based on such significant changes to the boundaries of numerous councils should explicitly reference views from these councils.

The Commission is aware that the Council has received correspondence from Regional Development Australia (Barossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains) and the Town of Gawler in relation to its proposal. Should the Council resolve to reconsider a potential proposal, details of this correspondence should be included in the Council's proposal, along with any other correspondence in support or opposition of the proposal.

Finally, I note that the initiating council is responsible for the costs associated with the investigation of any general proposal that the Commission determines to investigate that is initiated by councils. Your Council may wish to note at this point that the costs of the investigation for a proposal of the nature that you have put forward are likely to be very significant.

As set out in Guideline 9, please be advised that I have notified the councils affected by this potential proposal.

I also advise that, in accordance with the Commission's publication policy, the information about the potential proposal, including this response, has been made available at—
www.dpti.sa.gov.au/local_govt/boundary_changes.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you. If you have further questions, please contact the Commission's Executive Officer on (08) 7109 7148.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Green
Chair, SA Local Government Boundaries Commission

9 July 2020