

Council Boundary Change Proposals

Costs for General Proposals Initiated by a Council or Councils

This Guideline should be read in conjunction with the procedures for boundary change proposals which are set out in Chapter 3, Part 2 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act). The Act is accessible via the [South Australian Legislation website](#).

The Boundaries Commission (the Commission) is the body established to undertake the initial assessment of reform proposals, oversee investigations, and make recommendations to the Minister responsible for the Act (the Minister). This role is undertaken by the Local Government Grants Commission.

Section 32B of the Act provides for the Commission to recover reasonable costs of an inquiry in relation to a **general proposal** referred to the Commission by a council or councils. Further information on general proposals is contained within Guidelines 3 and 4.

This Guideline has been issued by the Commission to detail the process the Commission will use to determine the cost of an investigation. A council or councils will only incur costs for the general proposals that they refer themselves.

Following receipt of a submission from a council, the Commission will determine whether it meets the requirements of the Act and guidelines. If the proposal is a general proposal, the Commission will determine the level of investigation necessary to inquire into the proposal.

Costs will vary depending on the complexity of the proposal submitted to the Commission. The Commission can appoint one or more investigators to undertake a detailed inquiry into the proposal. Guideline 5 provides further information on the Commission's process for appointing investigators. Expected costs will be based on the investigation process and the associated public consultation that occurs during the investigation process.

A proposal will not proceed to an investigation without the Commission consulting with the initiating council on expected costs and any alterations to a proposal (if relevant). The Commission will advise of expected costs and it will then be up to the council to determine whether to proceed with the proposal.

If a council, or a number of councils feel that a proposal they are considering is of value to the State more widely, they can request the Minister to progress the proposal on their behalf. Costs related to work on proposals initiated by the Minister will be the responsibility of the State Government.

Contact details:

Boundaries Commission

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Website: http://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/local_govt/boundary_changes