

17.2 TOWN OF GAWLER BOUNDARY REALIGNMENT

Contact Person: Luke Culhane

Why is this matter confidential?

Subject to an order pursuant to Section 90(3)(j) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, this matter is confidential because the South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission is seeking feedback from impacted Councils on the Draft Inquiry Report on the Gawler Boundaries Review.

A. COUNCIL TO MOVE MOTION TO GO INTO CONFIDENCE

No action – this motion passed in the open section.

B. THE BUSINESS MATTER**17.2 TOWN OF GAWLER BOUNDARY REALIGNMENT**

Responsible Executive Manager : Luke Culhane

Report Author : Luke Culhane

Delegated Authority : Matters which cannot be delegated to a Committee or Staff

Attachments : 1. [Gawler Boundaries Review](#)

PURPOSE

Mayor Docherty received correspondence from the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission (the Commission) inviting the City of Playford to provide feedback on the Draft Inquiry Report from the Investigator, BDO Services Pty Ltd (BDO) on the Town of Gawler Boundary Change Proposal. The Draft Report focuses on factual information based on material provided by the affected Councils and analysed by BDO.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council receives the Draft Inquiry Report titled 'Gawler Boundaries Review' (Attachment 1) from the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission.
2. The Council acknowledges the Draft Inquiry Report titled 'Gawler Boundaries Review' (Attachment 1) from the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission, relevant to the City of Playford, largely comprises factual information provided by Council's administration.
3. That Council requests that the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission provide additional information to assist the Council in considering all relevant factors before providing feedback. This should include, but not be limited to:
 - The outcome of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan process.

- Recommendations from the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission on the Town of Gawler Boundary Proposal.
4. That, as Council has not resolved any formal positions on the 'Gawler Boundaries Review' (Attachment 1), the Council requests that the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission remove the following statements from the Draft Inquiry Report:
- The City of Playford neither supports nor opposes the proposal for the move of the portion of Evanston Park to the Town of Gawler.
 - The City of Playford neither supports nor opposes the proposal for the move of the portion of Hillier to the Town of Gawler.
 - The City of Playford neither supports nor opposes the proposal for the move of the portion of Bibaringa to be within its boundaries.
 - The City of Playford neither supports nor opposes the proposal for the move of the portion of Uleybury to be within its boundaries.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission has invited the City of Playford to provide feedback to the Draft Inquiry Report into the Gawler Boundaries Review. The Draft Inquiry Report details the financial impacts, Council employee matters and representation matters for the City of Playford. However, the report is factual in nature and does not include recommendations of the Commission. The Draft Report includes statements of the City of Playford that are not endorsed positions. Furthermore, the outcomes of the stakeholder engagement process are not included within the Draft Inquiry Report.

1. BACKGROUND

In December 2019, the Town of Gawler submitted a Stage 1 Boundary Change Proposal to the Commission. In January 2020, the Commission approved for the proposal to proceed to Stage 2. The proposal seeks both the inclusion of new areas as well as the renouncement of land within the current Town of Gawler Local Government Area boundary. The areas relevant to the City of Playford are as follows:

Areas to be included in the Town of Gawler:

- Area 5 - Evanston Park
- Area 7 – Hillier.

Areas to be removed from the Town of Gawler:

- Area 8 - Bibaringa
- Area 9 - Uleybury.

The City of Playford is affected by areas 5,7,8 and 9 of the proposal. BDO have been appointed by the Commission as the investigator of the proposal. An information session, held on 10 September 2024, last provided the Council an update of the proposal.

2. RELEVANCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Theme 3: Connecting with our community and each other

Providing feedback to the Commission on the Town of Gawler Boundary Proposal represents the community through collaboration with Government levels and stakeholders.

3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There is no requirement for the City of Playford to undertake any community consultation activities in relation to the Town of Gawler Boundary Change Proposal.

A final Stakeholder Engagement Plan was approved the Commission on 23 July 2024. Engagement activities with the community have since been undertaken by the investigator, BDO. The outcome of the engagement has not been made available to the City of Playford.

4. DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The lead investigator, BDO, has submitted the Draft Inquiry Report to the Commission for consideration. The Commission has invited the City of Playford to provide feedback on the Draft Inquiry Report by 28 February 2025.
- 4.2 The draft report considers the financial impacts, council employee matters and representation matters for the City of Playford. The Administration assisted the Investigator by providing relevant information to develop the Draft Report. Page 50 of 113 of Attachment 1 provides a succinct summary of the overall impact to the City of Playford.
- 4.3 Financial Impact - The Draft Report outlines the total net budget impact of the proposal as a \$21,000 net gain for the City of Playford. Furthermore, the report outlines no determination has yet been made by the Boundary Commission, in relation to any compensation payable for the transfer of assets between Councils, should the boundary reform proposal proceed. Therefore, the report has not outlined the financial impacts of this on Council.
- 4.4 Council Employee Matters - The Draft Report outlines there would be a negligible impact on Council employee full time equivalents (approximately 0.1FTE across the council).
- 4.5 Representation Matters – The Draft Report outlines the City of Playford would lose approximately 44 electors of the current 71,441 electors (approximately 0.1% of electors) should the proposal proceed for all four (4) areas proposed. The potential impact of the proposal on representation matters for the City of Playford is therefore negligible. Given the negligible change, no impact on ward structures is anticipated.
- 4.6 The Draft Inquiry Report contains views representing the City of Playford that are not endorsed positions. These are:
 - Page 41 of the Draft Report states *‘The City of Playford has confirmed it neither supports nor opposes the proposal for the move of the portion of Evanston Park to the Town of Gawler*
 - Page 46 of the Draft Report states *‘The City of Playford has confirmed it neither supports nor opposes the proposal for the move of the portion of Hillier to the Town of Gawler’*

- Page 52 of the Draft Report states *'The City of Playford has confirmed it neither supports nor opposes the proposal for the move of the portion of Bibaringa to be within its boundaries'*
 - Page 57 of the Draft Report states *'The City of Playford has confirmed it neither supports nor opposes the proposal for the move of the portion of Uleybury to be within its boundaries.'*
- 4.7 A Stakeholder Engagement Plan was approved the Commission on 23 July 2024. Engagement activities were undertaken by the Investigator (BDO). The Stakeholder Engagement Plan identified key stakeholders to be engaged including, rate payers and community members. The Draft Report does not provide any information on any feedback received from key stakeholders including, rate payers and community members.
- 4.8 The Draft Inquiry Report does not include any recommendations from the Investigator or the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission with regards to the Town of Gawler Boundary Proposal.

5. OPTIONS

Recommendation

1. That Council receives the Draft Inquiry Report titled 'Gawler Boundaries Review' (Attachment 1) from the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission.
2. The Council acknowledges the Draft Inquiry Report titled 'Gawler Boundaries Review' (Attachment 1) from the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission, relevant to the City of Playford, largely comprises factual information provided by Council's administration.
3. That Council requests that the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission provide additional information to assist the Council in considering all relevant factors before providing feedback. This should include, but not be limited to:
 - The outcome of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan process.
 - Recommendations from the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission on the Town of Gawler Boundary Proposal.
4. That, as Council has not resolved any formal positions on the 'Gawler Boundaries Review' (Attachment 1), the Council requests that the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission remove the following statements from the Draft Inquiry Report:
 - The City of Playford neither supports nor opposes the proposal for the move of the portion of Evanston Park to the Town of Gawler.
 - The City of Playford neither supports nor opposes the proposal for the move of the portion of Hillier to the Town of Gawler.
 - The City of Playford neither supports nor opposes the proposal for the move of the portion of Bibaringa to be within its boundaries.
 - The City of Playford neither supports nor opposes the proposal for the move of the portion of Uleybury to be within its boundaries.

Option 2

1. That Council receives the Draft Inquiry Report titled 'Gawler Boundaries Review' (Attachment 1) from the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission.
2. The Council acknowledges the Draft Inquiry Report titled 'Gawler Boundaries Review' (Attachment 1) from the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission, relevant to the City of Playford, largely comprises factual information provided by Council's administration.
3. The Council provides the following feedback to the SA Local Government Boundaries Commission:

- _____
- _____
- _____.

6. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

6.1 Recommendation Analysis

6.1.1 Analysis & Implications of the Recommendation

This option seeks Council's resolution that, for the City of Playford to provide feedback to the Commission, further relevant information is required. This option also provides feedback to the Commission to remove the statements that have been included in the Draft Report that are not endorsed positions.

Risk Appetite

Reputation

Council has a low appetite for negative perceptions that compromise its credibility and reputation, achievement of its long term vision (Playford Community Vision 2043) and strategic objectives, or ability to maintain its status as a progressive and major growth Council.

This decision will provide feedback to the Commission that Council seeks additional information to be able to consider all relevant factors before providing feedback including but not limited to, the outcome of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

6.1.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial or resource implications as no determination has yet been made by the Boundary Commission, in relation to any compensation payable for the transfer of assets between councils, should the boundary reform proposal proceed.

6.2 Option 2 Analysis

6.2.1 Analysis & Implications of Option 2

This option provides Council the opportunity to make amendments to the staff recommendation including providing feedback to the Commission on the Draft Inquiry Report.

6.2.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial or resource implications as no determination has yet been made by the Boundary Commission, in relation to any compensation payable for the transfer of assets between councils, should the boundary reform proposal proceed.

Released 28 April 2026

C. COUNCIL TO DECIDE HOW LONG ITEM 17.2 IS TO BE KEPT IN CONFIDENCE**Purpose**

To resolve how long agenda item 17.2 is to be kept confidential.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to Section 91(7) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Council orders that the following aspects of Item 17.2 be kept confidential in accordance with Council's reasons to deal with this item in confidence pursuant to Section 90(3)(j) of the *Local Government Act 1999*:

- Report for Item 17.2
- Attachment for Item 17.2
- Minutes for Item 17.2

The order for the *Report*, *Attachment* and *Minutes* shall be reviewed and determined as part of the annual review by Council in accordance with Section 91(9)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Pursuant to Section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to revoke this order at any time, and the Chief Executive Officer must advise the Council of the revocation of this order as soon as possible after such revocation has occurred.

Released 28 April 2026