



20 July 2021

Mr Bruce Green
Chairperson
South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission
GPO Box 2329
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Email: boundaries.commission@sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Green

RE: City of Port Lincoln - Initial Consideration of a Potential Proposal for Boundary Change

I wish to advise that at its meeting held on Monday 19 July 2021, Council considered a report in relation to a potential proposal for boundary change and resolved as follows:

That Council:

- receive and note the report on Boundary Reform; and
- write to the Boundary Reform Commission and the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula seeking initial consideration of a potential boundary change proposal to extend the boundaries of the City of Port Lincoln; and
- authorise the Mayor and CEO to finalise the correspondence detailing a potential boundary change proposal taking into consideration the areas around Port Lincoln which have seen considerable residential and population growth over the last 20 years.

Based on the above, I am now corresponding with you on behalf of Council to formally request initial consideration of a potential proposal (general proposal) for boundary change by the South Australian Local Government Boundaries Commission as detailed within this correspondence.

With reference to *Council Boundary Change Proposals - Guideline No. 3*, I ask that this correspondence be treated as Stage 1 of the two-stage boundary change process.

Background to the Potential Proposal

The boundaries of the City of Port Lincoln were last changed in 1981, some 40 years ago. Since that time, and in particular the last 20 years, there has been significant residential development and associated population growth both within the boundaries of Port Lincoln and immediately to the north of the Port Lincoln in the suburbs of Boston and Tiatukia.

As you would be aware, the City of Port Lincoln is bounded on all sides by the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula. This is an uncommon situation, with the only other similar example in South Australia being that of the City of Mount Gambier and the District Council of Grant. However, a major difference between these two examples is that arguably all of the residential growth and development of the City of Mount Gambier is contained within its boundaries, whereas the growth of Port Lincoln has crossed boundaries into the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula.

Our Council believes that it is once again time to review the boundary shared between the two councils with a view to ensure that the principles of Section 26 of the Local Government Act 1999 are being fulfilled.

Details of the Potential Proposal

Although we are open to discussion with the Boundaries Commission and the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula about alternatives or different boundary change configurations, initially we feel that the following changes (as shown on the attached map) are the most logical and simple changes to initiate discussions for the purposes of a Stage 1 consideration by the Commission.

In summary, the proposed changes are to realign the City of Port Lincoln (COPL) / District Council of Lower Eyre (DCLEP) boundary as follows:

- include full suburb of Port Lincoln in COPL
- include suburb Boston in COPL
- include suburb Tiatukia in COPL

These changes are illustrated on the map attached to this correspondence titled 'Stage 1 Boundary Change Proposal'.

Additional Suburbs that could be included in a Stage 2 Proposal

If the Commission sees merit in the potential proposal (Stage 1) and it proceeds to the point where Council commences preparing a Stage 2 proposal, pending feedback from both the Commission and DCLEP, consideration could also be made for the inclusion of further suburbs within the COPL boundary including North Shields, Point Boston, Duck Ponds and Sleaford.

How the Potential Proposal aligns with the Principles of Section 26

In accordance with the guidelines, the Commission requests any potential proposal to include a brief outline of how the proposal addresses the section 26 principles, particularly in regard to the identified community of interest, social fabric and common interests of the area and how service provision would be improved as a result of the proposal.

On this basis, I provide the following brief detail, noting that more comprehensive studies and analysis will follow if the proposal progresses to Stage 2.

- *Census Data and Population Growth*

It is evident from Census data, that while the DCLEP has experienced population growth in the range of 35% between 2001 and 2016, it is also evident that this growth has been largely within a 6km radius of Port Lincoln, namely Boston and Tiatukia.

If we look at the breakdown of population growth figures for key suburbs within DCLEP, data from 2006 to 2016 shows a population increase in Cummins (UCL) of 3%, a population increase at Coffin Bay (UCL) of 4% and significant population increase in Boston (SSC) of 79%.

Boston is 38kms from Coffin Bay, 58kms from Cummins yet only 7kms from Port Lincoln.

Port Lincoln itself has experienced population growth of 7% from 2001 to 2016, however as an extended community, it is arguable that Port Lincoln's growth figures should include Boston and Tiatukia.

- *Community of interest / social fabric and common interests*

Aside from anecdotal evidence (which could be verified through further research and analysis) which would show that a clear majority of the working population from Boston and Tiatukia work in Port Lincoln, that residents shop in Port Lincoln, that sports people play sports in Port Lincoln and that children go to school in Port Lincoln, there is tangible data that demonstrates that some residents with the DCLEP are strongly connected to Port Lincoln and the activities of Council and community. The following are two such examples.

Engagement in Council's community consultation processes - The City of Port Lincoln recently launched the YourSay platform that enables members of the community to register and keep up to date with any proposals that Council is seeking input from the community on. Council currently has 196 people registered on the platform with 26 (13%) identifying as being residents of the DCLEP.

Response to Council's public relations campaigns - This City of Port Lincoln also launched the MyLocal App in March 2021, and statistics on the number of downloads for the app are provided by the LGA. As a result of the campaign to promote the usage of the app to local residents, the statistics for March to April 2021 showed 196 (111% increase) residents of the City of Port Lincoln downloaded the app, while 24 (85% increase) residents of the DCLEP also downloaded the app. Average increases across the state were between 1% and 3% for the same period.

- *Service Provision Improvements*

The City of Port Lincoln currently provides a range of services and infrastructure to the community, and the expansion of these services to Boston and Tiatukia, we believe, would be welcomed by the community. Aside from the discussions around the provision of shared infrastructure within the city itself, services and facilities such as the library, Leisure Centre and Nautilus Arts Centre, there are some very practical examples of where services provided by the City of Port Lincoln would benefit the residents of Boston and Tiatukia.

The DCLEP for example is introducing for the first time, a kerbside recycling collection service to these suburbs in the 21/22 Annual Business Plan and Budget at an estimated cost of \$150 - \$180 per property - this will be applied to property rates as a service charge.

The City of Port Lincoln provides this service to properties within the council area at a cost of \$53.80 per property.

Boundary Commission's consideration of the Potential Proposal

On behalf of the City of Port Lincoln, I respectfully ask for the Commission's consideration of this potential proposal. Council is confident that the proposed boundary changes align with the principles of section 26 of the Local Government Act.

Council considers that the potential proposal for boundary change is the most appropriate option as it will assist in delivering efficient and cost effective services, share the cost of providing vital city infrastructure and facilities and unlock greater opportunities for local and fair representation for ratepayers.

Additionally, it will bring together a local community which is currently being serviced by two separate Councils with different strategic imperatives for the development and progression of the Port Lincoln community.

Council strongly believes that it will enhance the capacity of both Councils to deliver results to local communities in a more strategic and effective way. For the City of Port Lincoln, we can focus on the economic development, liveability and opportunities which residents of greater Port Lincoln expect. The District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula can focus on their strengths, which is delivering results for their rural communities.

The Commission's approval to proceed to Stage 2 will facilitate a comprehensive analysis of potential boundary change and Council would welcome consultation with the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula with a view to realising meaningful structural reform in the interests of the community of Port Lincoln and it's ratepayers as well as the greater Lower Eyre Peninsula region.

Should the commission require any additional information or wish to discuss the proposal in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact myself (contact details below) or Matthew Morgan, Chief Executive Officer on telephone 0419 947 371 or via email at matthew.morgan@plcc.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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MAYOR

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