

Media Release



09 April 2021

Hills Council stands united with residents over boundary changes

Adelaide Hills Council (AHC) is standing firmly with residents after Campbelltown City Council (CCC) moved against the wishes of the majority of AHC residents in Rostrevor and Woodforde, and voted to continue a boundary realignment process to annex these suburbs into their own council area.

The results of a survey commissioned by CCC were presented publicly at their council meeting on Tuesday 6 April, 2021 and AHC Mayor Dr Jan-Claire Wisdom says they send a strong message from the affected community that they wish to remain part of the AHC.

“The Report clearly states that the majority of the respondents (62%) are not in favour of the boundary change and one in two residents (55%) strongly oppose the boundary change proposal”.

“It also states that the majority of residents claimed to be happy with AHC and do not feel the need to be moved to Campbelltown Council.”

“These results are consistent with, and comprehensively validate, the results of the AHC survey conducted a year earlier.”

“The affected community in Rostrevor and Woodforde have not changed their mind despite the extensive information provided to them by CCC prior to their survey,” said Dr Wisdom.

AHC and affected residents were disappointed at the lack of any robust debate or questioning offered up by CCC Councillors at the meeting in response to the report findings, and question the motivation behind pursuing realignment.

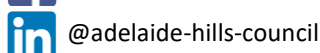
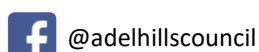
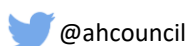
“You can’t force people to feel they belong to another community or punish them for using services in other councils,” said Dr Wisdom.

“On multiple occasions CCC has claimed that AHC residents using their services leaves CCC financially disadvantaged but has provided no evidence of such. Council boundaries are of little relevance to the community when it comes to availing themselves of the facilities and services that suit their needs - this is a reality for all councils.”

“AHC has worked collaboratively with CCC and will continue to do so in relation to any issues with stormwater, traffic management and amenities along our shared suburbs as we do with all nine of our bordering councils.”

“Indeed, the Hamilton Hill development has met stringent requirements in terms of post development flows not exceeding pre development flows, and put sophisticated water detention

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Media Release



and retention systems in place. Subsequently we do not believe there is any evidence to support claims of additional implications in terms of stormwater impacts for CCC residents.”

“When CCC commenced this process in January 2019 the key justification given was that residents in the affected areas had expressed a desire to become part of Campbelltown Council. This justification was abandoned when the CCC CEO publicly acknowledged that there were very few requests received.”

“Now the most recently claimed justifications seem to be erroneous or irrelevant historical linkages and tenuous cost impacts of the affected areas.”

“To date CCC has failed to produce any compelling facts to support this very unpopular decision, nor any balanced representation of the advantages and disadvantages of their proposal to key stakeholders, and are yet to call a public meeting to test their ideas.”

“This is not a competition about which is the best council. As CCC has publicly stated ‘boundary reform is all about belonging’. It is clear that the majority of Adelaide Hills residents in Rostrevor and Woodforde identify with and want to belong to AHC.”

“A key component of boundary change proposals is to identify communities of interest that would benefit from the proposal. The affected AHC residents have clearly stated their lack of common interest and voiced the stressful impact this divisive proposal is having on their families.”

“It is disappointing that CCC has failed to put residents at the centre of their decision-making.”

“Boundary reform was never supposed to be just about money. At its core it is about community and the boundary reform legislation is deeply flawed if it can successfully be used in this predatory way.”

“If CCC can factually demonstrate significant inequities in services used or asset management there are other, less drastic remedies, than an unwanted boundary change proposal,” said Dr Wisdom.

When, and if, CCC lodges a Stage 2 submission it will up to the Boundaries Commission to determine if the proposal has sufficient merit to trigger further investigation, at which stage both Councils would be able to make further representations.

##Ends ##

Media contact: Jennifer Blake, Manager Communications, Engagement and Events
8408 0430 | 0437 114 698