

Media Release



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Council responds swiftly in opposing boundary claims

The Adelaide Hills Council (AHC) has responded swiftly to Campbelltown's City Council's (CCC) most recent appeal to the Boundaries Commission (the Commission) aimed at acquiring the suburbs of Woodforde and Rostrevor (part) from the AHC.

"We felt compelled to write to the Commission over the weekend and we very much appreciate that the Commission has already acknowledged our response and put it on the agenda for their meeting this Wednesday," said Adelaide Hills Council Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom.

"We were very concerned that the additional information supplied by CCC to the Commission made no mention of the strong opposition already voiced by the impacted communities in the surveys conducted separately by both AHC and CCC."

"In AHC's opinion CCC's Supplementary Information report has not provided any compelling grounds which might give AHC cause to reconsider our position to oppose the CCC Boundary Change Proposal."

"We have always believed the proposal was deficient in many regards, primarily self-serving, and disrespectful of the values, expectations and aspirations of the affected community," said Mayor Wisdom.

The term 'communities of interest' is widely used by CCC in their Supplementary Information report but mostly relies on a geographical interpretation of space and proximity and does not in AHC's view acknowledge or give due consideration to the sense of identity that is held by these foothills residents. They are the key community of interest because they are the ones most impacted by the proposed boundary change.

"A community's geographical space should not be confused with their sense of place," says Mayor Wisdom.

The AHC is further dismayed that the proposal categorises AHC residents of Woodforde and Rostrevor as a financial burden on CCC but offers little data to support this claim. Furthermore it does not acknowledge the reciprocal way all councils' boundary residents enjoy each other's infrastructure and facilities, nor does it recognise the recreational value of the foothills maintained by AHC which can freely be used by existing Campbelltown residents.

Other reasons CCC cite include the claim that they would provide improved levels of service provision to affected residents however, they provide little supporting data and so AHC is doubtful of this claim.

The CCC also claims in their Supplementary Information that their proposal for a boundary change supports the AHC Strategic Boundary Review 2020. It is our position that this Review did not conclude that the

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affected suburbs would be better serviced by CCC. Regardless, the large majority of affected residents have been clear that they do not want to move from AHC to CCC.

This Boundary Change Proposal has been initiated and entirely driven by CCC. In AHC's view the advantages claimed by CCC overwhelmingly benefit CCC financially without being able to demonstrate how they are currently being overwhelmingly disadvantaged financially.

"Given the strong community opposition at this time and the full impact of the Hamilton Hill development is still unknown, there could be some merit in reviewing the boundaries in 15 or 20 years to gauge future community sentiment and infrastructure needs."

"However we are very supportive of the Commission's work and have every confidence that they will thoroughly consider all the information that has been put before them by all stakeholders," said Mayor Wisdom.

The Boundaries Commission will meet on Wednesday 20 July to consider the matter further and a decision on whether CCC can proceed with their claim should be known shortly after. CCC is seeking approval to proceed to the final inquiry stage.

##Ends##

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