

News releases - Geoff Brock

[Draft Council Boundary Bill public consultation period extended](#)

[Geoff Brock](#) September 28, 2016

The State Government has extended the public consultation period by a further two weeks on a draft Bill aimed to reform the process for changing current local council boundaries in South Australia.

The closing date for submissions was Friday 30 September 2016. The new deadline is Friday October 14 2016.

The draft Bill includes creating an independent Commission to undertake initial assessments of boundary change proposals and to make recommendations to the Minister.

The draft Bill also seeks to establish a simpler and broader process allowing boundary change proposals to be initiated by a single council or the Minister for Local Government.

Other measures will include introducing a provision for independent analysis of general proposals – significant boundary changes, amalgamations or significant structural reform – by one or more investigators with the relevant expertise.

There's also a provision for creating a simplified pathway for minor boundary change proposals.

Background

Legislative provisions governing council boundary changes have not changed since the *Local Government Act 1999* came into operation.

The State Government and the LGA have agreed on a proposed new framework allowing for a more effective way of proposing and considering submissions for council boundary changes.

This followed discussion at Ministerial meetings with the Local Government Association, and subsequently through the Premier's State/Local Government Forum

Quotes attributable to Local Government Minister Geoff Brock

There has been considerable interest in the draft Bill, much of it positive, so I've decided to extend the consultation period by two weeks to allow as many interested people as possible more time to make a submission.

This is an opportunity to put in place a better process - one that deals with minor boundary changes efficiently, and also enables freer debate and discussion on more significant structural reform opportunities.

The new approach provides an opportunity to remove the limitations and inefficiencies in the current boundary change processes.

Following consideration of feedback, I expect to introduce a Bill to Parliament before the end of the year.