



## 5049 Coastal Community

*Stronger together*

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Mr Bruce Green  
Chair of Commission  
Boundaries Commission

5 December, 2019

Dear Sir

**Re: Preliminary information regarding possible changes to council boundaries in 5049 coastal community.**

As you are aware, the City of Holdfast Bay Council has recently moved to establish if there is community support for a change to its boundary that would see Marino move from the City of Marion to the City of Holdfast Bay. The Mayor of the City of Marion immediately made a counter proposal, claiming that such a boundary change would do little to improve services to the Marino community and that to effect real change; the two councils should instead merge.

The City of Holdfast Bay subsequently approached the 5049 Coastal Community Association to consider a community-led submission to the Boundaries Commission.

The potential implications for residents of the 5049 Coastal Community, for either of these scenarios, are most significant.

In response, the 5049 Coastal Community Association conducted a pre forum survey and held a public forum on 27 November, 2019 at the Kauri Sports & Community Centre. The two Mayors elaborated on their proposals, and responded to some of the issues raised by our community. The forum provided residents with some early clarification about their respective intentions.

The 5049 Coastal Community Association is an incorporated, not for profit organisation, run by a committee of volunteers to represent and enhance the common, community interests of those people living west of Brighton Road, in the 5049 postcode. Please see <https://www.5049coastalcommunity.com/>

Our Association, at this time, does not have a consensus view, preferred option or community led mandate for change, relating to the proposals put forward by the two councils. We are still at the preliminary stages of considering our way forward. In doing so, we have agreed with our community that we will be guided by 3 key principles. Namely,

community consultation and engagement, transparency and evidence-based decision making.

We have examined the SA Boundaries Commission Guidelines relating to council and community led applications for council boundary changes and have identified a number of issues. More importantly, we also recognise that there are no precedents in the application of those guidelines as it relates to community led applications

We believe, notwithstanding those guidelines, that it would be very useful to have an initial discussion with senior officers of the Boundaries Commission to help us ensure we are taking a logical and appropriate approach to the sequence and scope of our related activities. We are not yet at the 'Stage 1 Proposal' point as we have not yet a clear direction from our community as to what their boundary configuration preference/s is/are.

What we seek now, is an opportunity to meet with the Commission to ensure that the subsequent steps we take are consistent with its requirements and to ensure we are clear about key stakeholders' options and obligations. *Inter alia*, some of the initial questions we have include:

1. In considering the boundary change or merger options, what would the target audiences be for any survey to determine community interest/preference?
2. Who would conduct that and how? Who pays for it? Who says when it would happen?
3. A 10% support of electors/residents may be an administrative prerequisite for the commission for consideration of an application. We believe that there would need to be much stronger evidence of support (51%?) for the community to endorse either option. This would obviously need to be ratified before any 'Stage 1 Proposal' would be made.
4. What would our procedural, financial and legal options and obligations be in applying for and sponsoring either of these scenarios?
5. What would the obligations of councils be (to this Association and the community) in the process of making application to the Commission?
6. What is the status of the transfer, ownership and maintenance of council assets and provision of services in the application and change process?
7. Are Councils obligated to meet promised asset improvements (eg Marino board walk improvements, Marino community hall redevelopment, Kingston Park coast path improvements etc) if there is a change to or merger of council boundaries?
8. Is it permissible to put conditions on changes? ie could the application made by our Association to the Commission be conditional on the affected councils meeting certain requirements of the community eg that Councils continue to undertake announced and budgeted activities? That planning requirements are met or changed? That promised lower council rates would be delivered?
9. Etc

This is clearly a test case, not only for the efficacy of your Commission's guidelines, but also how you propose to respond to requests for help from communities such as ours. We have

been advised by an officer of your Commission that no one is available to meet with us to discuss these or related matters. We believe that this is most unfortunate and disappointing, as we are all in uncharted waters and are confident that it would be mutually beneficial to do so. Additional issues to those raised above are very likely to be generated by such a meeting.

We respectfully ask you to overturn that direction to your staff and meet with us.

Our nominated contact person is Mr Ric Bierbaum on 0400596225, email ricbierb@bigpond.net.au.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bagshaw', written in a cursive style.

*David Bagshaw* President