

16 September 2019

PO Box 21, Oaklands Park
South Australia 5046

245 Sturt Road, Sturt
South Australia 5047

T (08) 8375 6600

F (08) 8375 6699

E council@marion.sa.gov.au

Dear Marino Resident

I'm writing to you regarding Holdfast Bay Council's bid to take over the suburbs of Marino and Glengowrie.

While I recognise the democratic rights of the community, it's important that I make you aware of some important facts.

Holdfast Bay's move appears to be based on financial reasons:

- Holdfast Bay's debt is substantially more than Marion's despite their population being about 45 per cent of Marion's.
- The trend is for Holdfast Bay debt to increase over time, while Marion has been paying off debt at the rate of \$1 million per year.
- Claims that rates will be cheaper under Holdfast Bay Council are not as simple as they seem.
- Our "average residential rate" increase this financial year is 1.8 per cent (the lowest in metropolitan Adelaide), while Holdfast imposed a 2.7 per cent increase.

Investment in Marino

Marino is an important community within Marion Council.

Just this month I opened the redeveloped Bandon Terrace Reserve, where we spent \$305,000 on new sporting facilities and play equipment.

In coming years, redeveloping Marino Hall will cost millions, making the Coastal Walkway safe will cost millions, we have plans for a grand improvement to the Newland Avenue entrance to Marino, there will be calls to develop an open space component at the imminent Seacliff Park development, and the Marion Golf Course needs attention too.

Funding for these projects, and more, would be called into question if further steps are taken to sever Marino from the Marion Council. Why should we budget for these items if there is a real risk all of these assets will be transferred to another Council?

The City of Marion acknowledges it is part of Kaurna land and recognises the Kaurna people as the traditional and continuing custodians of the land.

Price of switching Councils

Transferring individual suburbs between Councils may appear simple but the time and cost of the process is excessive – and, unfortunately, it will be ratepayers who pay the price.

Marion Council explored transferring several suburbs from Onkaparinga Council earlier this year. Not surprisingly, we dropped the idea after the Boundaries Commission told us we would have to pay an estimated \$250,000 for consultants to tell us the price tag for the change, which could then be millions of dollars more.

That is why I believe if we are really serious about improving services, and we want to unite communities, there will inevitably be discussion about Marion and Holdfast Bay Councils merging.

I hope this letter has helped clarify Holdfast Bay's proposal.

Yours sincerely,

KRIS HANNA

Kris Hanna
Mayor

*PS This should not be
turned into a political issue!*
K.