

# Media Release



Thursday 4 June 2020

## Adelaide Hills Council asks Campbelltown to withdraw proposal

Adelaide Hills Council has publicly requested that Campbelltown City Council considers withdrawing its proposal to annex the suburbs of Rostrevor and Woodforde from its council area following a survey of residents.

Adelaide Hills Council Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom and Deputy Mayor Nathan Daniell made a deputation at the Campbelltown City Council meeting on Tuesday night and declared their request.

“Our Council’s response to the Campbelltown City Council proposal has always been to be guided by the opinions of those residents and ratepayers who would be affected directly by the proposed boundary change.”

“The results of the survey conducted late last year are compelling with almost two thirds of the survey respondents opposed to the proposal.”

“We therefore don’t believe it’s in the interests of our communities for Campbelltown to commit significant resources in pursuing a boundary realignment that does not have the underlying support of the residents who live there.”

“Adelaide Hills Council retained an open mind to the survey and commissioned external assistance to minimise design and analysis bias. The survey report was provided to Campbelltown City Council several months ago as was the Adelaide Hills Council resolution to request a withdrawal.”

“We are not aware whether Campbelltown City Council has considered our request to withdraw the proposal as informed by the survey results and our resolution,” said Mayor Wisdom.

In January 2019 Campbelltown City Council passed a resolution to lodge a Stage 1 submission with the Boundaries Commission regarding a proposed change to its boundary with Adelaide Hills Council. According to statements made by Campbelltown City Council this decision was made in response to requests received by them from local residents. Some affected residents are still awaiting the detailed release of these resident requests, including their specific number and nature.

Adelaide Hills Council was not informed this item had been put on Campbelltown’s agenda nor that it was passed. “The first I heard of the resolution was when the media rang me for comment,” said Mayor Wisdom.

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The Boundaries Commission subsequently granted Campbelltown City Council permission to pursue a Stage 2 proposal in May 2019.

During the course of 2019, Adelaide Hills Council was also receiving anecdotal feedback from residents of the two suburbs that Campbelltown City Council's proposal did not have their support.

In response to the differing information regarding how residents felt about boundary realignment, Adelaide Hills Council convened a community meeting in September 2019 at Rostrevor College. The purpose of this meeting was to provide information to affected residents and ratepayers regarding the boundary reform proposal and to gain a further appreciation of their views. Campbelltown City Council accepted Adelaide Hills Council's invitation to present at this meeting.

Approximately 122 people attended the meeting and such was the depth of feeling communicated by residents, that the Adelaide Hills Council resolved in September 2019 to conduct a survey of the Adelaide Hills Council residents in the affected area for the purpose of understanding their views on the proposal and to inform the Council's position on the matter.

Adelaide Hills Council commenced a comprehensive survey of Rostrevor and Woodforde residents in November 2019. Almost two thirds of the survey respondents were opposed to the Campbelltown proposal and only 28% supported the proposal. The remaining 7% were either undecided or had no preference. A total of 268 people responded to the survey. Of the Rostrevor residents who completed the survey, over 80% were against the Campbelltown proposal.

Mayor Wisdom informed Campbelltown City Council at the meeting that her council has also commissioned a strategic review of all its boundaries and intends to respectfully engage with each of those nine councils with a view to exploring opportunities that would benefit all ratepayers and communities.

## Background information

The new boundary change legislation, which commenced in January 2019, requires the initiating council to prepare a submission to the Boundaries Commission addressing a number of criteria in order to substantiate the case for a boundary realignment. There is no requirement for the relinquishing council to be in agreement with or to contribute to the development of the submission. The Boundaries Commission assesses the initiating council's submission and if it believes that there is merit, the Commission will conduct its own independent investigation, again at the initiating council's expense, before making a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government.

**Media contact:** Jennifer Blake, Manager Communications, Engagement and Events

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8408 0430 | 0437 114 698