

1 March 2021

Dear Rostrevor and Woodforde Residents

I write to let you know of a resolution of Adelaide Hills Council (AHC) passed on 15 December 2020 in relation to the Campbelltown City Council (CCC) proposal to realign its council boundary to incorporate the suburbs of Rostrevor and Woodforde.

The resolution was for AHC to write to the State Minister for Planning and Local Government to advise her that it appears that CCC is acting in a predatory manner by refusing to accept the views of Rostrevor and Woodforde residents in relation to CCC's current Boundary Proposal. Their proposal seeks to acquire and control your suburbs in matters of Local Government such as infrastructure maintenance, waste disposal and planning.

Our letter to the Minister also included a request for a review of the council boundary reform legislation to ensure community views are being properly considered much earlier in the process. We included a copy of the AHC 2019 survey results, to which many of you contributed, and which showed 65% of Woodforde and Rostrevor residents opposed the boundary proposal.

AHC has taken this extraordinary action of writing to the Minister because of the predatory way CCC is trying to acquire your properties so you become CCC ratepayers. We do not believe their actions are in the best interests of you, the affected residents, and believe that some key information you are being given is misleading.

When CCC first announced their intention to acquire your suburbs two years ago their Mayor publicly stated that the reason for their action was due to the number of requests they had received from residents wanting to change from AHC to CCC. However no petition or other substantial evidence could be produced by CCC to substantiate this claim. In fact, CCC was reported in the media admitting that only a very small number had been received over the years, thus casting doubt on CCC's persistent claims that the boundary change process was initiated in response to requests from residents.

Instead CCC has more recently launched what appears to be a widespread and costly marketing campaign to persuade you that since you might use their services you should be paying rates to CCC. However the use of public roads, libraries and parks is open to everyone, as are recreation centres (the latter usually on a user pays basis). You do not need to be a Campbelltown ratepayer to use these services, nor do you need to be an AHC ratepayer to use similar services in our council area. With regards to infrastructure such as roads on council boundaries AHC already works in arrangement with CCC, and both AHC and CCC fund the same waste collection service 'East Waste'.

Of most concern is the planning commentary offered by the Mayor and other CCC advocates through social media videos and a flyer hand-delivered to residents during the COVID-19 lockdown late last year. Poor planning criteria and decisions were key concerns of Rostrevor and Woodforde residents expressed in the AHC community survey and in the report AHC provided CCC, yet no planning questions were included in CCC's own recent survey.

Further, it is not honest to publicly say, as the CCC flyer does, that 'the look and feel, block sizes and housing style of your area will not change'. No Council can resolve to do this with any certainty. However it is true to say that AHC's record of resisting development based on infill and smaller subdivisions has been substantially successful. To this end, I am pleased our good stewardship of the Hills has been acknowledged by CCC in its flyer. We have also recently made representations to the Minister for Energy and Mining in opposition to key elements of the expansion of Hanson's White Rock Quarry in the Hills Face Zone due to community concerns.

Our Council notes that it is now several months since CCC invited you to participate in a survey it was conducting. We are still waiting for the results of the survey to be made public by CCC and understand it will be at least another month before they come before CCC for discussion.

In relation to our letter to Minister Chapman, we have now received a response. While she notes our concerns with the CCC process, the Minister has indicated that the boundary reform guidelines do allow the Boundaries Commission to consider the extent of any support from affected residents in a subsequent stage of a proposal, should it get that far.

As indicated previously, AHC is firmly of the view that CCC should abandon its proposal. Regardless, CCC seems determined to press on with its boundary review process. Should you have any queries about Adelaide Hills Council's services, your rates or the way your area is managed, I invite you to contact us on 8408 0400 or mail@ahc.sa.gov.au and we would be pleased to assist. You are also welcome to contact elected members directly to discuss any queries you have regarding the boundary proposal and can find their details at ahc.sa.gov.au.

I wish you a safe and prosperous 2021.

Yours sincerely



Dr Jan-Claire Wisdom
Mayor