



REPORT: Update on investigations on potential boundary alteration: North Yeoval

DIVISION: Strategy, Partnerships and Engagement
REPORT DATE: 25 January 2024
TRIM REFERENCE: ID24/164

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	Provide review or update	
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Providing update on investigations on potential LGA boundary adjustments for Yeoval and North Yeoval as per Council's 2023-2024 Operational Plan: Action 4.1.1.5	
Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigations indicate that a boundary adjustment would have a number of community benefits and support operational efficiencies.The report provides an initial update and proposed project timeline, however further information is required from stakeholders to inform a further report and Council's future consideration of progression to a formal public exhibition process.A formal application needs to respond to relevant components of section 263(3) of the Local Government Act (LG Act).	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Not applicable
	Funding Source	Not applicable
Policy Implications	Policy Title	Not Applicable
	Impact on Policy	Not Applicable
Consultation	Finance Operations	Gained insight on potential impacted ratepayers.
	Office of Local Government Cabonne Council	Sought advice on process, governance requirements and timelines. Informal advice to Mayor and General manager that Council would be investigating potential adjustments as per Operational Plan action.
	Village Committee	Brief discussion at Community Committee meeting that boundary adjustments would be explored where and when they may deliver improved Community outcome.
	Customer Insights and Engagement	Sought advice on draft engagement program.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Towards 2040 Community Strategic Plan is a vision for the development of the region out to the year 2040. The Plan includes six principle themes and a number of objectives and strategies. This report is aligned to:

Theme:	4 Leadership
CSP Objective:	4.1 Council provides transparent, fair and accountable leadership and governance
Delivery Program Strategy:	4.1.1 Council encourages and facilitates two-way communication with and between stakeholders and the community
Theme:	4 Leadership
CSP Objective:	4.1 Council provides transparent, fair and accountable leadership and governance
Delivery Program Strategy:	4.1.2 Council's decision-making processes are open, transparent and accountable

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the information in the report of the Chief Executive Officer, dated 25 January 2024 be noted.**
- 2. That a further report on a potential LGA boundary adjustment at North Yeoval be provided to Council in May 2024.**

Murray Wood
Chief Executive Officer

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Director Strategy,
Partnership and
Engagement

BACKGROUND

Council's 2023/2024 Operational Plan includes Action 4.1.1.5 'Collaborate with neighbouring LGAs to investigate and consider formal boundary adjustments for areas such as Yeoval and North Yeoval'.

Advice has been sought from the Office of Local Government (OLG) regarding the process of seeking a boundary adjustment and such advice includes:

- Applications for boundary alteration may be made by the Minister, by a council affected by a proposal or by the minimum number of electors as defined by the LG Act.
- Recommend that an application be made by a council, as this is the most direct avenue to seek an amendment.
- Where all affected councils agree to the proposed boundary line, the application is processed internally at OLG, but where one (or more) affected council does not agree, the matter is referred to the Boundaries Commission.
- The LG Act does not specify the format of making an application however the application needs to include a cover letter to the Minister explaining the reason for the proposed alteration, resolutions of the affected councils and a map of the current and proposed boundary.
- Attached as Appendix 1, the application also needs to respond to relevant components of section 263(3) of the LG Act.

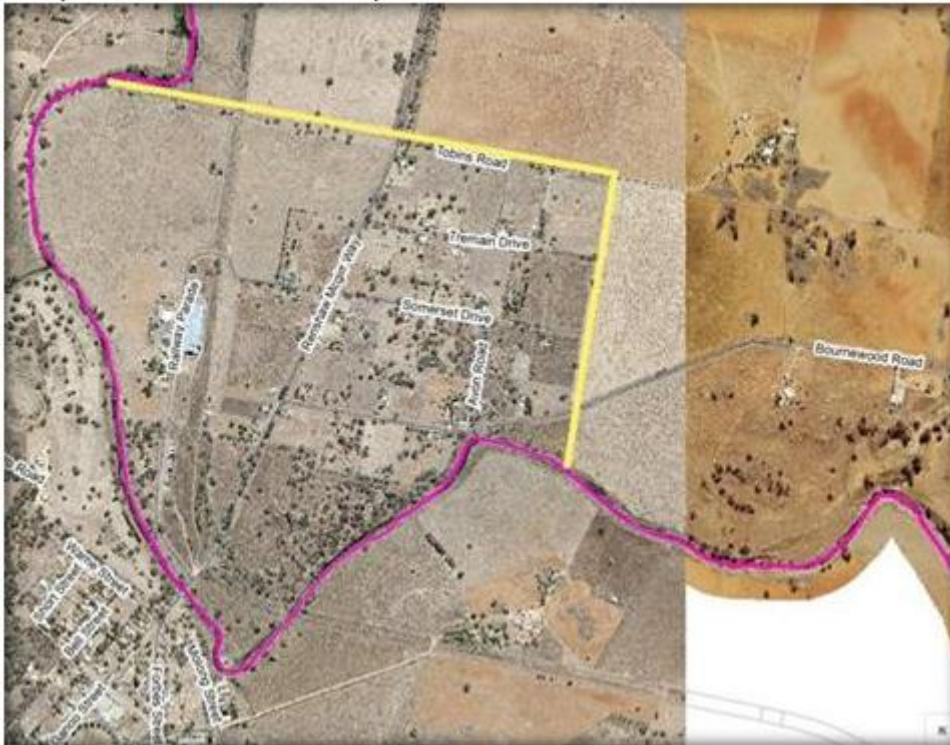
OLG also advised that due to the September 2024 local government elections and the related workload being a priority for the office, the NSW Electoral Commission has placed all boundary alterations on-hold. As there are a number of moving parts to an application OLG recommend that Council continue to move through the process to community engagement so that any potential application can be finalised, and the alteration proclaimed as soon as the pause is lifted.

REPORT

Dubbo Regional Council services to North Yeoval are Cemetery maintenance and roadside maintenance. Waste and Water services are provided by Cabonne Council under a service charge to Dubbo Regional Council.

Investigations have identified that a potential LGA boundary alteration at North Yeoval would be beneficial to Community and Council in a number of ways and is proposed that the project progress to stage one stakeholder consultation.

As presented in the below map, a potential boundary adjustment could occur in Yeoval following paper road reserves. The pink is the current LGA boundary, and adjustment could be proposed to the yellow. This adjustment would result in North Yeoval residents and properties forming part of the same LGA as the residents of Yeoval, being Cabonne Council.



An initial high level investigation on a potential boundary alteration identified:

- There are 42 rate assessments within the zone exemplified above.
- Cabonne Council currently provide water and waste service to North Yeoval residents, with Dubbo Regional Council collecting payments and on paying Cabonne Council.
- Dubbo Regional Council provides a cemetery management service. The cemetery is maintained via a third-party contractor.
- Community feedback received on the draft Budget and Delivery Program in 2023 included a request for Council to make a formal submission to the Boundary commission on areas such as North Yeoval. There are a number of steps that need to be undertaken before Council would be in a position to potentially make an application.

Consultation

- Advice on process has been received from the Office of Local Government.
- Informal engagement has occurred with the Mayor and General Manager of Cabonne Council, to advise that Council is investigating a potential boundary alteration at North Yeoval.
- Council's Customer Insights and Engagement Team have provided advice on an Engagement Program in line with requirements of a potential formal public exhibition process (outlined at a high level in timetable below).
- It is proposed that the Engagement Program include two key stages, with stage one focusing on investigations and initial community input and stage two being formal the Public Exhibition Period enabling communities in both Local Government Areas to provide input.

The draft Engagement Program for stage one has been identified at the INVOLVE Level. Within this standard Council commit to keeping community informed, will listen and acknowledge

input and will work directly with impacted community to appropriately reflect input or concerns.

Resourcing Implications

- Undertaking the consultation and preparation of a potential application to OLG will be managed within existing operational budgets and staffing.
- Specific resource implications of a boundary alteration would be outlined in a further report to Council.

Proposed Timeframe

Key Date	Explanation
March 2024	Formal communication to Cabonne Council outlining proposed engagement program. Public Project page published on Your Say
April 2024	Further investigations undertaken and stage one community consultation program commence focusing on North Yeoval residents. This process will further identify impacts and gain initial community views. Formal consultation to commence with Cabonne Council.
May 2024	Report to Council reflecting further investigations and stage one community consultation. Council provide direction on the proposal proceeding to Public Exhibition.
June 2024	(Pending Council direction) Public Exhibition period of detailed proposal enabling both LGAs to provide input.
July 2024	Report to Council on outcome of Public Exhibition process. Council to provide direction on potential application.
August 2024	Cabonne Council to give formal consideration on potential application.
September 2024	If resolved by both Councils formal application to submitted to Office of Local Government. Outcome of assessment would be based on Office of Local Government timings.

APPENDICES:

- 1 Response to s.263 - Boundary Alteration North Yeoval