

**Moore, Marie (DPC)**

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**From:** Cheltenham EO <Cheltenham@parliament.sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 August 2014 2:33 PM  
**To:** DPC:PCU  
**Subject:** FW: Submission to review of government boards and committees by DPC  
**Attachments:** HCSA sub re abol of gov boards Aug 2014.docx

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**From:** Susan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 August 2014 1:24 PM  
**To:** Cheltenham EO  
**Cc:** History Council of SA  
**Subject:** Re: Submission to review of government boards and committees by DPC

Dear Premier

As you know, I represent the History Council of SA, the peak body for history in SA, and I attach for consideration by your department and Cabinet our submission to the current review of government-appointed board and committees.

With best wishes

Susan Marsden

Susan Marsden BA (Hons) PhD MPH  
*susan marsden historian*



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President, History Council of South Australia  
<http://historycouncilsa.org.au/>

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***Submission to investigation into reform of South Australian government boards and committees  
Prepared by Susan Marsden (President) 22 August 2014***

The History Council of South Australia (HCSA) understands that Cabinet is considering the reform of boards and committees; and that this week Ministers have advised the Department of Premier and Cabinet on which boards and committees are proposed for exemption from abolition, with Cabinet making the final decision to change, merge, retain or abolish a board or committee by late August.

As a peak organisation the HCSA speaks on behalf of the historical community in this State, and has consulted with that membership in order to respond to the merger or abolition of history- and heritage-related boards and committees. These include the boards of the North Terrace cultural institutions, History Trust of SA, State Records Council, and SA Heritage Council (and Register Committee). What impact will abolition have on the state's historical and heritage activities, and on voluntary organisations such as those forming the membership of the HCSA? What purposes do these and other committees serve? Should they be retained or not?

Each of these boards or councils were set up under Acts of Parliament for reasons which continue to apply, that is, to obtain expert advice and representative views for policy development, and to be consultative with the broad SA community. The State Records Council was originally established by the State Records Act in 1997 *because* of community concern that decisions about the disposal of government records should be impartial and independent. There will be revived community concern should the council be abolished. Reform of these boards should strengthen their independence from government, and so increase their standing as impartial community boards.

The government has described this reform as 'A new approach to directly engage with South Australians' <http://yoursay.sa.gov.au/yoursay/changing-the-way-we-engage>. However, these formally appointed committees are structured in such a way as to engage effectively with a wide range of groups, compared to the ad hoc approach implicit in the use of social media. Abolition of these boards is also likely to increase rather the workload of voluntary heritage groups. However, there is room for reform of these boards, to improve consultation with community groups.

Apart from representing a broad constituency, the State Records Council (SRC) and the South Australian Heritage Council (SAHC) are formally constituted to include expertise relating to documentary and built heritage respectively. Should they be abolished, the approval of disposal determinations (SRC) and analysis of heritage nominations (SAHC) would have to involve wider consultation than occurs at present. Hence, those councils supply efficient consultation and expert advice to the Government at minimal cost (modest sitting fees and the cost of secretariats). The SAHC cost \$7,210 in 2012–13 (Government Boards and Committees annual report [http://dpc.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubimages/documents/boards-committees/BC\\_AR-2013.pdf](http://dpc.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/pubimages/documents/boards-committees/BC_AR-2013.pdf)). Seeking and gaining similar expertise by other means would be more cumbersome, less representative and far more costly in fees. However, the expert advisory role of the SAHC's standing Register Committee could be merged with the SAHC.