



Later today the CiF councillor of town and country planning Alejandra Ferrer will submit a technical report to Demarcació de Costes (the coastal authority in the Balearic region) and request a momentary suspension of the period of public notice for the recently released changes to Formentera's coastal delimitations. The new delimitations were first announced 4 August, from which point the local administration on Formentera was given one month to produce either comments relevant to the changes or just such a report.

But as councillor Ferrer explained, in order to comment on the revised coastal boundaries, the Council will need the coastal authority's explanation of its decision. To that end, Ferrer and the Consell Insular de Formentera (CiF) have requested a technical report justifying the new delimitation (as it affects both public land and easement buffer zones), a straightforward definition of the proposal being considered for Espalmador and Espardell islands as well as an explanation of the actions that are expected in the case of buildings which exist on public land. "We are asking that the period of notice be placed on hold until either explanatory documentation is provided or technical staff from Demarcació can explain the motivations behind these new boundaries. That will also ensure that we actually have the time and ability to comment on the authority's decision," explained Councillor Ferrer.

## **Giving back property without weakening protection**

The CiF, or Formentera Council, has always supported a fair delimitation of the island's coastline as well as the idea of returning land to Formentera homeowners "as long as such a move did not weaken measures in place to protect the land. We must be cognisant of the fact that Formentera's landscapes are what set us apart, and that heritage belongs to everyone", said the councillor. In the new delimitation, "we are seeing that protection criteria are different in different areas, and at the moment we can't find justification for that. That is what we would like to have explained." As the town and country planning head stressed once again, coastal delimitations on Formentera are very important for the future of our island: "We would like buildings in the public domain to remain public".