



Local Government Act 1993

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INQUIRY

Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council

The Minister for Local Government has appointed Commissioners to hold a Public Inquiry under section 438U of the *Local Government Act 1993* into Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council.

The Terms of Reference of the Inquiry are:

To inquire and report to the Minister for Local Government with respect to the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (Council) proposed Implementation Plan (comprising a Detailed Transition Plan, Task Schedule and Financial Sustainability Plan) as lodged by Council as a formal proposal on 21 March 2024 to create two new Councils from the existing Council including advising whether:

1. *if the governing bodies of the new Councils were to implement the proposed Implementation Plan, would this create the potential for:*
 - *a sustainable financial path for the ongoing operation of the two councils*
 - *strong and effective leadership in a manner consistent with the guiding principles set out in sections 8A, 8B and 8C of the Act*
 - *effective management of responsibilities relating to long term financial planning, public land management and provision of services*
2. *the area of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council should be dissolved pursuant to s212 of the Act to enable a proposal to create two new councils to be implemented*
3. *any other matter that warrants mention, particularly those that may impact on the effective administration of the future Councils' functions and responsibilities or the community's confidence in the Council being able to do so.*

The Commissioners may make recommendations as the Commissioners see fit having regard to the outcomes of the Inquiry, including whether all civic offices at Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council should be declared vacant.

Public Hearings for the Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council Public Inquiry in relation to the Terms of Reference will commence on 30 August 2024.

The hearing on 30 August 2024 will be held at the Sydney Masonic Centre, 66 Goulburn Street Sydney. The hearing will be available to watch via webcast.

Any person wishing to make a written submission within the terms of reference should forward submissions by post by 30 September 2024 to the Office of the Commissioner, Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council Public Inquiry, Locked Bag 3015, NOWRA NSW 2541. Alternatively, submissions may be emailed to

cootamundra.gundagai@olg.nsw.gov.au by 30 September 2024.

Persons wishing to make oral submissions at a future hearing date should indicate such in their written submission and indicate the matters relating to the terms of reference that they would seek to address.

Further information is available on the Public Inquiry website at

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public-inquiries/Cootamundra-Gundagai>