

The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP

Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly
Vice-President of the Executive Council
Minister for Local Government



Our Ref: A900038

His Worship the Mayor
Cr Charlie Sheahan
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council
PO Box 420
COOTAMUNDRA NSW 2590

Via email: charlie.sheahan@cgrc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Cr Sheahan,

I am writing to advise you that following the Public Notice period I have decided to progress the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (Council) proposal along the path discussed with Council in October 2023.

Consequently, as required by section 218(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), I have referred the proposal to the Local Government Boundaries Commission (Boundaries Commission) for examination and report. I have also appointed the members of the Boundaries Commission to undertake a public inquiry under section 438U of the Act into Council in accordance with the following terms of reference:

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.

The public inquiry constitutes as separate proceedings from the referral of the proposal for examination and report by the Boundaries Commission under section 263 of the Act. It is my desire that the public inquiry occur alongside my referral of Council's proposal under section 263 of the Act to the Boundaries Commission.

I request that you provide a copy of this letter to all councillors and the interim General Manager.

Yours sincerely,



The Hon. Ron Hoenig MP
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17 JUN 2024