



**Local Government Act 1993**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INQUIRY**  
**Central Coast Council**

The Minister for Local Government has appointed Ms Roslyn McCulloch as Commissioner to hold a Public Inquiry under section 438U of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) into Central Coast Council.

The Terms of Reference of the Inquiry are:

*To inquire and report to the Minister for Local Government with respect to whether:*

1. *In exercising its functions pursuant to sections 21, 22, 23, 23A and 24 of the LG Act, the governing body met its obligations in a manner consistent with sections 8A(1)(b), 8B(a), 8B(c) and 8B(d) of the LG Act, particularly in relation to:*
  - a. *Whether the governing body acted in a manner that maximised the success of gaining efficiencies and financial savings from the merger process,*
  - b. *Whether the governing body disregarded the financial consequences of its decisions, and*
  - c. *Whether the governing body's decisions since 2017 contributed to the financial position which the Council now finds itself in.*
2. *In exercising its functions pursuant to section 223 of the LG Act, the governing body ensured:*
  - a. *As far as possible, that decisions taken by it had regard to the financial sustainability of the council, and*
  - b. *That it kept under review the performance of the council, including that council spending was responsible and sustainable by aligning general revenue and expenses.*
3. *Any other matter that warrants mention, particularly those that may impact on the effective administration of Council's functions and responsibilities or the community's confidence in the Council being able to do so.*

*The Commissioner may make recommendations as the Commissioner sees fit having regard to the outcomes of the Inquiry, including whether all civic offices at Central Coast Council should be declared vacant.*

Submissions are invited from persons with an interest in putting forward points of view relating to the Terms of Reference. Submissions received by the Inquiry will be made available to the public at the Commissioner's discretion.

Written submissions should be forwarded to the Office of the Commissioner, Central Coast Council Public Inquiry, Locked Bag 3018, Nowra NSW 2541. Submissions may also be emailed to [centralcoastcouncil.publicinquiry@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:centralcoastcouncil.publicinquiry@olg.nsw.gov.au)

Submissions should be received by 21 June 2021.

Persons intending to make a submission are encouraged to review the Information Paper available from the Office of the Commissioner.

Persons seeking to appear at the Public Hearings are asked to give advance written notice of their desire to make oral submissions, either within their written submission or in separate written advice. Such notice is to include a brief outline of the topics the person wishes to address, having regard to the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry. It should be noted, however, that the Commissioner is not obliged to automatically give a right of appearance to all persons wishing to appear before her.

Details of the venue and times of the public hearings will be announced in due course.

Further enquiries regarding the Inquiry can be made to the Office of the Commissioner at the address given, or email at [centralcoastcouncil.publicinquiry@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:centralcoastcouncil.publicinquiry@olg.nsw.gov.au)

The Information Paper on the conduct of the Inquiry is also available on the Public Inquiry website on the internet at [olg.nsw.gov.au/public-inquiries/central-coast-council-public-inquiry/](http://olg.nsw.gov.au/public-inquiries/central-coast-council-public-inquiry/)