



**Local Government Act 1993
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INQUIRY
Balranald Shire 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* into Balranald Shire 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 and 24 of the LG Act, the governing body is meeting its obligations to provide strong and effective leadership in a manner consistent with the guiding principles set out in sections 8A, 8B and 8C of the LG Act, including whether its leadership with respect to Council's management of its responsibilities relating to long term financial planning, public land management and provision of services is appropriate;*
- 2. In exercising its functions pursuant to sections 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the LG Act Council is meeting its obligations to act as a responsible employer, providing a safe, consultative and supportive working environment for the general manager and other staff in a manner consistent with the guiding principles set out in section 8A(1)(i) of the LG Act and any other statutory requirements considered relevant;*
- 3. In exercising its functions pursuant to sections 21, 22, 23 and 24 and Part 2, Divisions 2 and 3 of Chapter 9 of the LG Act, the governing body's Mayor and councillors' conduct and decision-making both collectively and/or individually demonstrates an understanding of their role under sections 226 and 232 of the LG Act.*
- 4. In exercising its functions pursuant to sections 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the LG Act, the governing body acts in accordance with the guiding principles set out in section 8A of the LG Act including whether the governing body commands the confidence of its community.*

5. *In exercising its functions pursuant to sections 21, 22, 23 and 24 of the LG Act, Council has complied with its obligations as Reserve Trust Manager under the Crown Lands Act 1989 of the Balranald Caravan Park.*
6. *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 Balranald Shire 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, Balranald Shire Council Public Inquiry, Locked Bag 3018, Nowra NSW 2541. Submissions may also be emailed to BalranaldPublicInquiry@olg.nsw.gov.au or faxed to 02 4428 4199.

Submissions should be received by 29 April 2019.

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 shortly.

Further enquiries regarding the Inquiry can be made to the Office of the Commissioner at the address given, or telephone 02 4428 4197, fax 02 4428 4199, or email at BalranaldPublicInquiry@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 www.olg.nsw.gov.au/balranald-public-inquiry