# **Review into the Local Government Boundaries Commission**

Submission Form

1. The review into the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission (the review) will examine the composition, function and processes of the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission (Boundaries Commission) established under the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act) and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (Regulation), with the aim of identifying areas for improvement. The review will also include an examination of similar frameworks used in other jurisdictions for any lessons they may offer for improving the New South Wales framework.

A discussion paper has been released to outline the current composition, function and processes of the Boundaries Commission and to invite submissions identifying areas for improvement.

All stakeholders are invited to respond to this discussion paper, including community members, councils and joint organisations, individual councillors and council staff, professional and employee representative organisations, local government industry stakeholder groups and key NSW Government agencies and other related stakeholders.

### How to fill out this form

1. Complete online or send this completed submission form to:
2. Post:

 Office of Local Government

 Local Government Boundaries Commission Review

1. Locked Bag 3015
2. NOWRA NSW 2541
3. Email: olg@olg.nsw.gov.au clearly labelled ‘Local Government Boundaries Commission Review’
4. **Submissions close 5pm Wednesday 16 December 2022**

### Information on privacy and confidentiality

When you give us your feedback, OLG will be collecting some personal information about you, in particular:

* your name
* your email address
* the name of your organisation (if relevant)
* any personal information you decide to put in the additional comments fields.

All feedback received through this consultation process may be made **publicly available**. Please let us know below if you **do not want** your name and personal details published.

To ensure submissions offer maximum value in assisting this review to identify the issues it needs to consider and address and to identify possible opportunities for improvement, they should be made based on the following guidelines:

* Submissions should be framed to offer constructive responses to the considerations identified in the dialogue boxes at conclusion of each section of this discussion paper. These are designed to prompt consideration of the key issues that need to be examined and addressed by the review.
* Submissions should focus on making positive suggestions for improvement rather than seeking to remedy past errors or failures. However, examples that illustrate any deficiencies in the current framework may assist the review in identifying opportunities for improvement.
* The review is not a vehicle to re-prosecute individual cases or as an appeal mechanism for past decisions. Submissions seeking to do this will not be considered.
* There is no word limit on submissions. However, the inclusion of copious attachments and appendices to illustrate the points made in a submission is discouraged and will only detract from the attention that can be given to the submission.

While every effort will be made to preserve any confidential information provided in submissions, submissions or extracts from submissions may be incorporated into the review report and may otherwise be made publicly available at the discretion of OLG in consultation with the independent reviewer. If submissions are made public, contact details will be redacted. The name of the person making a submission may be released unless that person has requested to remain anonymous.

Any submissions received are also subject to the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

For more information or for assistance with making a submission, please contact OLG on (02) 4428 4100 or via email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

### About you

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Personal Details |  |
| I would like my name and personal details to be treated as confidential | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| Name |  |
| Postal Address |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Email address |  |
| Organisation | (Please mark all applicable)[ ]  Local Government (Councils)[ ]  Business / Industry[ ]  Community[ ]  Other – please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

### Feedback on questions in discussion paper

| 1. The role and composition of the Boundaries Commission
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| 1. Q1. - Do you think the criteria currently being applied ensure that the commissioners have the skills and experience needed to appropriately undertake their role? If not, what skills or experience do you suggest should form part of the eligibility criteria?
 |
| 1. Your response
 | [ ]  No change [ ]  Change[ ]  No comment |
| 1. Comment (if any):
 |  |
| 1. Q2 - Should the criteria for individual commissioner appointments be varied to ensure a complementary and wider range of skills and experience on the Boundaries Commission? If so, what balance of skills and experience need to be represented?
 |
| 1. Your response
 | [ ]  No change [ ]  Change[ ]  No comment |
| 1. Comment (if any):
 |  |
| 1. Q3 - Do you think there should be a requirement that both metropolitan and regional or rural councillors should be represented? If so, should there be a minimum number of regional or rural councillors?
 |
| 1. Your response
 | [ ]  No change [ ]  Change[ ]  No comment |
| 1. Comment (if any):
 |  |
| 1. The Boundaries Commission’s ability to provide robust advice
 |
| 1. Q4 - Do you have any suggested changes or improvements to who can make a boundary alteration, amalgamation or de-amalgamation proposal? If so, please explain your suggestion.
 |
| 1. Your response
 | [ ]  No change [ ]  Change[ ]  No comment |
| 1. Comment (if any):
 |  |
| 1. Q5 - Do you have any views on the minimum number of electors which should be required to make a proposal? If so, please explain the reasons for your views
 |
| 1. Your response
 | [ ]  No change [ ]  Change[ ]  No comment |
| 1. Comment (if any):
 |  |
| 1. Q6 - Do you suggest any changes to the 11 matters the Boundaries Commission is required to consider? If so, what changes would you recommend and why?
 |
| 1. Your response
 | [ ]  No change [ ]  Change[ ]  No comment |
| 1. Comment (if any):
 |  |
| 1. Q7 - In your view, should the Boundaries Commission be required to give any of the 11 matters (or any other matters you think it should be required to consider) any particular weighting or preference? If so, what matters should be given more weight or preference and why?
 |
| 1. Your response
 | [ ]  No change [ ]  Change[ ]  No comment |
| 1. Comment (if any):
 |  |
| 1. Q8 - Do you think timeframes should be set for the Boundaries Commission examination and reporting process? If so, what timeframe do you suggest for boundary alteration proposals, for amalgamation proposals and for de-amalgamation proposals? Why do you suggest these timeframes?
 |
| 1. Your response
 | [ ]  No change [ ]  Change[ ]  No comment |
| 1. Comment (if any):
 |  |
| 1. Best methods to ensure community and stakeholder views are well represented
 |
| 1. Q9 - Do you have any views on who should be approached to complete postal surveys and opinion polls when public feedback is sought about a proposal? Please explain the basis for your views
 |
| 1. Your response
 | [ ]  No change [ ]  Change[ ]  No comment |
| 1. Comment (if any):
 |  |
| 1. Q10 - Do you think that guidelines should be developed to determine the mechanisms and processes for ensuring community and stakeholder views are represented? If so, what mechanisms and processes would you suggest and why?
 |
| 1. Your response
 | [ ]  No change [ ]  Change[ ]  No comment |
| 1. Comment (if any):
 |  |
| 1. Q11 - Do you any views about restricting representation of persons by a lawyer or person acting for fee or reward at public inquiries? If so, please explain the basis for your views.
 |
| 1. Your response
 | [ ]  No change [ ]  Change[ ]  No comment |
| 1. Comment (if any):
 |  |

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| --- |
| 1. Other feedback
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| The discussion paper has been developed to encourage feedback in response to the targeted questions, however we welcome comment on any further, general feedback in connection with the terms of reference. |
| 1. Comment (if any):
 |  |

*Thank you for your feedback which will be taken into account in finalising the review into the composition, function and processes of the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission*