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Proposal to De-amalgamate Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Area

Boundaries Commission Update

On 6 July, the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock, received a proposal submitted by Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council to de-amalgamate under section 218CC of the *Local Government Act 1993*. On 3 August 2021, the Minister referred the proposal to the Local Government Boundaries Commission. The proposal is available on the Boundaries Commission [website](#).

The Council has advised the Boundaries Commission that it was unable to complete its 2020-21 financial accounts by the due date of 31 October and that has sought and received an extension to 17 December 2021. The Boundaries Commission has determined that it would not be appropriate to base its examination of the proposal on the previous year's financial position and is therefore awaiting completion and audit of the 2020-21 accounts.

The Commission has re-appointed Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu to provide advice on the financial aspects of the de-amalgamation proposal.

“The financial aspects are only one of the nine factors the *Local Government Act* requires the Commission to consider in its independent examination of the proposal”, explained Mr Sendt, Chairperson of the Commission.

“However a proper analysis of the financial advantages or disadvantages of any proposed change to a council boundary is key to understanding councils’ ability to provide services to local residents and ratepayers while remaining financially viable.”

Mr Sendt added that the Commission expects to announce in early January the timing and venues of its public inquiries and the opening and closing dates for public submissions.

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Information about the Local Government Boundaries Commission and its role can be found at www.olg.nsw.gov.au/lgbc