The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

Ref: A687585

Mr Bob Sendt
Chairperson
Local Government Boundaries Commission
Locked Bag 3015
NOWRA NSW 2541

By email: Bob.Sendt@lgbc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Sendt

Referral of Elector Proposal affecting Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council

I have received an elector proposal (the Proposal) made pursuant to section 215(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) from an appropriate minimum number of electors of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (Council) to create a new local government area from the Cootamundra-Gundagai local government area.

The Cootamundra-Gundagai local government area was created by Proclamation published in the NSW Government Gazette on 12 May 2016. It resulted from the amalgamation of the former Cootamundra and Gundagai local government areas. The effect of the Proposal, if implemented, would be to reinstate the former local government areas of Cootamundra and Gundagai.

Public notice of the Proposal was given by me in accordance with section 216 of the Act. Representations were received in response to that notice. Having considered the representations, I have decided to continue with the Proposal.

Consequently, as required by section 218(1) of the Act, I hereby refer the Proposal to the Local Government Boundaries Commission for examination and report.

I note that in considering this matter, the Commission must have regard to the factors listed in section 263(3) of the Act. They are:

> (a) the financial advantages or disadvantages (including the economies or diseconomies of scale) of any relevant proposal to the residents and ratepayers of the areas concerned,
> (b) the community of interest and geographic cohesion in the existing areas and in any proposed new area,
> (c) the existing historical and traditional values in the existing areas and the impact of change on them,
> (d) the attitude of the residents and ratepayers of the areas concerned,
> (e) the requirements of the area concerned in relation to elected representation for residents and ratepayers at the local level, the desirable and appropriate relationship between elected representatives and ratepayers and residents and such other matters as it considers relevant in relation to the past and future patterns of elected representation for that area,
> (e1) the impact of any relevant proposal on the ability of the councils of the areas concerned to provide adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities,
> (e2) the impact of any relevant proposal on the employment of the staff by the councils of the areas concerned,

(e3) the impact of any relevant proposal on rural communities in the areas concerned,
(e4) in the case of a proposal for the amalgamation of two or more areas, the desirability (or otherwise) of dividing the resulting area or areas into wards,
(e5) in the case of a proposal for the amalgamation of two or more areas, the need to ensure that the opinions of each of the diverse communities of the resulting area or areas are effectively represented,
(f) such other factors as it considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government in the existing and proposed new areas.

Further, for the purpose of exercising its functions in relation to this matter, I hereby direct the Commission, pursuant to section 263(2)(b) of the Act, to hold an inquiry.

To assist the Commission, I will arrange for the Office of Local Government to separately provide to the commission the following:

a. a copy of the Proposal, dated 16 October 2018;
b. a copy of the of elector representations received in response to the public notice; and
c. a copy of the representation received from Council in response to the public notice.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP
Minister for Local Government

25 FEB 2020