

## **Role of the Local Government Boundaries Commission**

The NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission has sought to clarify its role in relation to the current round of proposed council mergers.

Commission Chairman Bob Sendt said "It is important to understand what the role of the Boundaries Commission is - and is not".

"The Commission is set up under the *Local Government Act 1993* as an independent statutory authority".

"Where the Minister for Local Government refers a merger proposal to the Office of Local Government (as for all recent proposals), it is the Delegate appointed by the Chief Executive of that Office who examines the proposal, not the Boundaries Commission."

"It is the Delegate who conducts the public inquiry, calls for submissions, assesses the proposal against the 11 factors set out in the Act, and makes a recommendation on the proposal and reports to the Minister" Mr Sendt explained.

"The Commission's role – as set out in the Act - is to review the Delegate's Report and provide its comments to the Minister. That role does not involve the Commission re-examining the advantages and disadvantages of the merger proposal, holding public inquiries or calling for submissions."

Mr Sendt added "In reviewing and commenting on each Delegate's Report, we look to see that the Delegate has met the various legislative requirements. In doing that we also look to see that the Delegate's Report reflects the key sentiments expressed in submissions received."

"Each Delegate's Report and the Boundaries Commission's comments on that Report are then considered by the Minister."

"Future merger proposals will be referred by the Minister either directly to the Boundaries Commission (which would itself then examine the proposals), or to the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government."

For further information, see the Boundaries Commission webpage:

<http://olg.nsw.gov.au/commissions-and-tribunals/boundaries-commission>