



## **Wingecarribee Shire Council Public Inquiry**

### **Notice of Public Hearings**

Public hearings of the Wingecarribee Shire Council Public Inquiry will commence on Monday, 28 March 2022 and will be at the Wingecarribee Shire Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale. It is expected that the hearings will continue until Thursday, 14 April 2022.

The usual sitting hours of the Inquiry will be between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm (with a mid-morning break at approximately 11.30 am) and 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm. Those sitting times are subject to change at the discretion of the Commissioner to ensure the efficient conduct of the public hearings.

In order to minimise the potential impact on the public hearings from COVID-19, the Commissioner considers that it is presently appropriate to limit those who may be present in the hearing room to the following categories: those assisting the Commissioner; witnesses giving evidence; suspended councillors; current or former members of Wingecarribee Shire Council (WSC) staff who may be affected by the Terms of Reference; the General Manager of the WSC; the Administrator of the WSC; and any other person who can demonstrate to the Commissioner's satisfaction that they are sufficiently affected by the Terms of Reference or should otherwise be permitted to attend the public hearings in person. In reaching that conclusion, the Commissioner has taken into account that various courts and tribunals throughout New South Wales have placed limitations on those who may attend any hearings that are conducted in person.

Any person falling within the above categories and who wishes to attend the public hearings in person will be required to register with the Officer Assisting the Inquiry. Those who are granted permission to attend the hearings must conduct themselves in a COVID safe manner at all times and must not attend if unwell or displaying any COVID symptoms. Attendees must also comply with any current Public Health Orders and any other conditions of entry that may apply to the Civic Centre generally (for e.g., check in, vaccination and any mask wearing requirements). Further information will be set out in the Inquiry's Practice Note, which will be made available on the Inquiry's webpage shortly.

The arrangements for the public hearings remain subject to any current public health measures and will be kept under review by the Commissioner. Any changes to those arrangements (including the categories of person who may attend the hearings in person) will be notified on the Inquiry's webpage.

The Commissioner is concerned in the circumstances to ensure that any member of the public who may wish to observe the public hearings is able to do so. Accordingly, arrangements are being made to live stream the public hearings so that they may be viewed in real time. Details of where the live stream can be accessed will be made available on the Inquiry's website prior to the commencement of the public hearings. In addition, a daily transcript of the public hearings will be made available on the Inquiry's website, which will also enable those interested members of the public to review each day's proceedings. Any hearing conducted in private session will not be live streamed and no transcript of any such hearing will be made available.

Any enquiries concerning the hearings should be directed to the Officer Assisting the Inquiry at [wingecarribee.publicinquiry@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wingecarribee.publicinquiry@olg.nsw.gov.au)