

NOM 02

Public Inquiry Hearings

Strategic Objective	Visionary, Leading, Responsible Demonstrate a high standard of transparency and accountability through a comprehensive governance framework
File Ref	092829.2025
Author	Peter Ristevski - Councillor

BACKGROUND

This motion is put forward in response to the expressed desires of our residents for increased transparency and accessibility in local governance.

In recent discussions with community members, there has been a clear call for greater transparency in the public inquiry process. Residents have emphasised the importance of being able to engage with and follow these proceedings in real time, ensuring that all voices in our community are heard and considered.

Live streaming the public inquiry hearings would not only enhance transparency but also encourage civic engagement, allowing those who cannot attend in person to participate in the democratic process. This aligns with our commitment to fostering an open and accountable local government.

This initiative is a means to bolster community trust and participation in local governance.

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council writes to the Minister for Local Government requesting that the public inquiry hearings be live streamed.

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S COMMENT

Council's legal representatives wrote to the team assisting the Commissioner on 4 April 2025 to ask if the hearings will be live streamed. The Commissioner's team anticipates that the hearings will be live streamed with access available through the public inquiry webpage, but this will depend on the capabilities of the venue that is ultimately chosen to hold the hearing. Further representations can be made to the Commissioner if Council requires.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If endorsed, the Council resolution will be implemented by Council staff. To this extent, costs associated with this recommendation have been included in Council's budget for the current year and long-term financial plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil