

# **Public Inquiry into Liverpool City Council**

## **Office of the Commissioner**

### **Notice of Public Hearings**

Public hearings of the Public Inquiry into Liverpool City Council will be held across two sitting periods:

- 14 July – 1 August 2025; and
- 18 August – 29 August 2025.

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. The hearing dates and times remain subject to change at the discretion of the Commissioner to ensure the efficient conduct of the Inquiry.

The venue of the public hearings will be announced on the Inquiry website prior to their commencement.

Subject to any direction that the Commissioner may make (including that any part of the hearings take place in private) the hearings will be open to the public. However, it is anticipated that seating in the public gallery within the hearing room will be limited. Once seated capacity is reached, it will not be possible to admit any other member of the public to the hearing room. Accordingly, and to ensure that any member of the public who may wish to observe the public hearings is able to do so, 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.

Members of the public that wish to observe the hearings are strongly encouraged to do so via the live stream.

In addition to the live stream, 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 subject to the Commissioner's discretion, no transcript of any such hearing will be made available.

Further information about the conduct of the Public Hearings is set out in the Information Paper and Practice Guideline on the Inquiry website.

In anticipation of the commencement of the hearings, the Commissioner wishes to place the following matters on the public record. The first is that the Commissioner understands that Councillor Mannoun was formerly a non-executive member of the board of directors of the company that employs the

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<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public-inquiries/liverpool-city-council-public-inquiry/>

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Commissioner's wife. Councillor Mannoun ceased to hold that position some time prior to the Commissioner's appointment. As the Commissioner understands it, on occasion his wife made presentations to meetings of the board of directors at which Councillor Mannoun was present. The Commissioner understands that there was no other engagement between them, and they did not otherwise work together or have a personal or professional relationship. The Commissioner has not had any contact or dealings with Councillor Mannoun or any other Councillor. The second is that in about 2012, the Commissioner was engaged to assist in the conduct of a litigated matter by a firm in which Ms Betty Boustani was employed. Having regard to the Commissioner's records, the Commissioner had email contact with Ms Boustani in relation to that work. Although the Commissioner does not now recall, it is possible that he also spoke with or met Ms Boustani in the course of that work. The Commissioner has had no contact with Ms Boustani since that work was completed.

Any enquiries concerning the hearings or the content of this Notice should be directed to the Solicitors Assisting the Inquiry at [liverpoolccinquiry@holdingredlich.com](mailto:liverpoolccinquiry@holdingredlich.com)