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MEDIA RELEASE

Should the Hunter New England Local Health District be split into two separate districts?

The Committee on Community Services is holding an inquiry into the Health Services Amendment (Splitting of the Hunter New England Health District) Bill 2025 after it was referred to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly on 20 February 2025.

The Bill proposes splitting the Hunter New England Local Health District (LHD) into the Hunter LHD and the New England North West LHD.

'The Bill was introduced by the member for Barwon, Roy Butler, to improve health services in the Hunter New England LHD by splitting the existing district into two separate health districts. The Committee will be looking at how this proposal would operate, including potential benefits and risks, and whether it would improve health services in the Hunter New England area,' said Committee Chair, Clayton Barr MP.

'We would like to hear from the public and interested stakeholders about issues such as the potential impact on the administration of the LHD, funding and resourcing, staffing, and access to health services in rural and regional parts of the Hunter New England area.'

The Committee is inviting submissions from councils, peak bodies, unions, stakeholders in the health sector, and the public.

More information on the inquiry and on how to make a submission is available on the Committee's [webpage](#).

Submissions close on 17 April 2025. The Committee's focus is on the proposed splitting of the Hunter New England LHD, and the Committee cannot investigate individual experiences of medical care.

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