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MEDIA RELEASE

Committee sets new Narrabri and Tamworth public hearing dates

The Legislative Assembly Committee on Community Services has rescheduled its public hearings in Narrabri and Tamworth to 12 and 13 August, for its inquiry into the Health Services Amendment (Splitting of the Hunter New England Health District) Bill.

'Due to unforeseeable circumstances the Committee was unable to travel to Narrabri and Tamworth for public hearings as it had originally planned last month,' said Committee Chair, Mr Clayton Barr MP.

'This was unfortunate for us and the community, and on behalf of the Committee I apologise for any inconvenience caused by this reschedule. However, we are looking forward to the opportunity to meet with local community members in August.'

'It is really important that we hear directly from the regional communities that are impacted by the proposal to split the Hunter New England Local Health District. We also know that there is a lot of community interest in these areas as a number of submissions came from residents in the New England region, particularly those living in Narrabri and Wee Waa.'

The Committee is inquiring into a Bill that is proposing to split the Hunter New England Local Health District. The Committee is interested in hearing about potential benefits and risks of the proposed split, and whether it would improve health services in the Hunter New England area.

Further updates on the inquiry including hearing schedules will be published on the Committee <u>webpage</u> when they are finalised. Members of the public can also watch the public hearings live via the NSW Parliament <u>webpage</u>.

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